



Olympic dream now nightmare

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Clubs, cuisine at Worker's Stadium

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Oscars meet the press

Oscar prop statues from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences were shown to the media for the first time at a warehouse in Sagus, California, US on Wednesday. The 80th Annual Academy Awards will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2008, at the Kodak Theatre at the Hollywood & Highland Center, and will air live on the ABC Television Network.

IC Photo

Doris Lessing wins Nobel prize in literature



Doris Lessing

British writer Doris Lessing on yesterday won the Nobel Literature Prize for five decades of epic novels that have covered feminism, politics and her youth in Africa.

Lessing, 88 next week, is the 11th woman to take the prize since it started in 1901.

The Swedish Academy described Lessing as "that epicist of the female experience who with scepticism, fire and visionary power has subjected a divided civilization to scrutiny."

Although *The Golden Notebook*, her best known work, established her as a feminist icon back in 1962, she has refused the label and says her writing does not play a directly political role.

Born Doris May Taylor in Kherman-shah, now Iran, on October 22, 1919, Lessing spent her formative years on a farm in Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, where her British parents moved in 1927.

It was a "hellishly lonely" upbringing.

In 1939, she escaped and married Frank Wisdom, by whom she had two children before their divorce in 1943.

She then married German political activist Gottfried Lessing, but divorced again in 1949, when she fled to Britain with her young son and the manuscript *The Grass is Singing*, a searing examination of racial oppression and colonialism.

Her Children of Violence series, published between 1952 and 1969, established her credentials as both writer and feminist.

"I wasn't an active feminist in the 60s, never have been," she has insisted. "I never liked the movement because it was too ideologically based. All sorts of claims were made for me that simply weren't true."

In the 1980s, with her popularity in brief decline, she tested the importance of a name in publishing, and submitted a novel under a pseudonym, only to find it rejected. It was later published after she revealed her true identity.

She became an increasingly outspoken critic of Africa, particularly the corruption and embezzlement by its governments, but was finally able to revisit southern Africa in 1995, after the collapse of apartheid.

Her novel *The Good Terrorist* (1985), about an immature young woman who joins a terrorist cell, has strong echoes today.

In recent years Lessing, who lives in the London suburb of Hampstead, has also written several works of science fiction.

(AFP)

Foreigners face working restrictions in Guangdong

By Han Manman

Foreigners looking to build a career in Guangdong Province will face new restrictions and regulations currently being drafted by the Guangdong Provincial Labor and Social Security Department.

Under the proposed regulations, the labor and social security department will divide all jobs into three categories: encouraged, restricted and forbidden. The categories will be updated and published annually, a spokeswoman

for the bureau said.

However, she refused to disclose the details. "It's only a draft. The specific work classifications have not been decided yet," she said.

For jobs in the "encouraged" category, foreign employees will be issued permits. Employers will be charged fees for hiring foreigners in "restricted" positions.

As for the "forbidden" category, employment of foreigners without permits will be illegal. Foreign stu-

dents and those without residence permits are ineligible to work without government approval, and they risk fines of up to 1,000 yuan for working illegally.

The act is intended to cut crime among the growing number of foreigners illegally residing and working in Guangdong Province, Yan Xiangrong, a deputy of the province's people's congress, said.

An estimated 10,000 foreigners live in Guangdong Province, many of them financially

insecure and involved in crime, such as drug trafficking, fraud and theft.

During the first half of this year, 102 foreigners were arrested on criminal charges, more than triple the number arrested during the same period last year.

The local public security department plans to set up a database at the end of this year to record foreigners' visa information, residence status, travel and departure and entrance registration.

Golden harvest during week off

By Han Manman

The weeklong National Day holiday, one of China's three Golden Weeks, certainly lived up to its name given the surge in revenue in various industries during the break.

According to the new figures released by the Ministry of Commerce on Sunday, retail sales of consumer goods rose 16 percent to almost 350 billion yuan.

Bank card transactions hit 58.7 billion yuan during the holiday, up 73.8 percent over the same period last year, according to figures released Monday by China UnionPay (CUP), a national electronic payment and interchange network.

As for Beijing, the city received 5.94 million visitors during the seven days, up 3.5 percent from last year. Tourism drew in 4.13 billion yuan, according to the municipal vacation office.

The Forbidden Palace, the Summer Palace and Tian'anmen Square remain the major tourist draws, and the amount of garbage visitors left behind shows it.

At Tian'anmen Square alone, sanitation workers collected 80 tons of garbage from the world's largest square. The clean up efforts continued until Sunday night, Zhang Zhiqiang, an official with the Beijing Environmental Sanitation Group, said.

The second weeklong vacation since the opening of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway brought 401,600 tourists to Tibet - a jump of 51 percent over the last year, bringing 133 million yuan into the southwestern autonomous region, Yu Yungui, deputy director of the regional tourism department, said.

During the week, 1,171 people were killed in traffic accidents, down 42.8 percent from the same recording period last year, a Ministry of Public Security official announced Sunday.

The Chinese government launched the Golden Weeks in 1999 to encourage travel and spending.

Developers face new hurdles to get land

By Jiang Xubo

Property developers will face new hurdles to secure land for commercial development as new rules require them to pay all land-use fees before obtaining licenses.

Issued Tuesday by the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR) in an effort to reduce potential capital risks, the rules will take effect next month.

The new regulations will make it impossible for developers to develop any areas of land until all payments for that land have been settled. Previously, they could develop on a percentage of land equal to their current payment.

The practice has resulted in cases where developers were reluctant to cover the whole land-use fees even though they had sold their houses. It also made it possible for developers to grab several plots for commercial development with only a minimal down payment, an unnamed spokesman for the MLR said Wednesday.

The ministry also re-issued on its website, mlr.gov.cn, an order that all local government land sales must be carried out by public auction to ensure transparency.

The new rules come as the government is trying to bring the country's real estate explosion back under control. It is taking steps to control the conversion of land for commercial or residential development.

It has also acted to brake property prices. Costs for buyers of second homes and commercial property saw a huge jump due to actions last month by the People's Bank of China and the China Banking Regulatory Commission. The minimum down payment on mortgages for a second home was raised to 40 percent of the total sale price, up from 30 percent, and the corresponding amount for all commercial properties is now 50 percent.

On average, property prices in the country's 70 major cities have risen eight percent in the last year, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics. The dramatic jump has stoked fears within the government that housing will become unaffordable for people in lower income brackets.

Reporters visit the National Grand Theater



Some 120 journalists from 44 media organizations of foreign countries, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Province, who registered for the 17th CPC meeting, visited the National Grand Theater. It was the first group interview activity organized by the meeting's media center.

Xinhua Photo

Golden Weeks may face cuts to ease strains of tourism

By Huang Daohen

The government plans to adjust public holidays to ease traffic and relieve the burden upon the environment, officials from the China National Tourism Administration were quoted as saying this week.

One of the proposals, according to Hong Kong-based *Wen Wei Po*, is to cancel one of the three Golden Week holidays. The country currently has three week-long holidays for the Chinese Lunar New Year, May Day and National Day. The May Day holiday is most likely to face cuts, the report said.

The *Beijing Times* reported Monday that the tourism administration has drafted an adjustment, and the plans will take

effect pending approval by the National People's Congress.

"It's not easy to decide whether traditional holidays in China can be added as national holidays," the official said, adding that a list of holidays has been nailed down.

National Day was officially extended to a weeklong holiday in 1999. Over the past eight years, the yearly three weeks have brought huge returns for the nation's tourism industry as more and more people choose to travel the country.

Still, voices calling for cancellation of the synchronized nationwide holidays, and pressures the vacations bring to nationwide transportation, accommodations

and the environment are adding fuel to their fire.

At the Forbidden City, the most recent Golden Week drew such heavy traffic that it exceeded its 50,000 visitors per day limit for seven days in a row. The museum is developing an e-ticketing system to cope with its volume of visitors.

Experts say that week-long holidays are not an ideal way for people to take a break. "They don't get a real rest since they flock to tourist locations, and people are always busy managing their accommodations and transportation," a researcher surnamed Wang, from the Tourism Research Center of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said.

Brief news

Millions of new CPC members

The number of Communist Party of China (CPC) members reached 73.36 million in June, an increase of 6.42 million members since 2002, according to figures released by the Organizational Department of the CPC Central Committee this week.

Billions in relief funds

The Red Cross Society of China has raised 4.2 billion yuan in relief funds in the past 20 years to help 160 million people affected by natural disasters, Su Juxiang, the organization's deputy president, said Tuesday.

Investing to control diseases

The government has spent 10.5 billion yuan in building 2,448 disease prevention and control centers across the country since 2003, all of which are linked by computer networks, Chen Zhu, the minister of health, said.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Juvenile shareholders' control of millions worries public

By Huang Daohen

The Bank of Beijing confirmed Tuesday that it had 84 shareholders below age 18, among whom is a ten-year-old.

The bank, which began to trade on the Shanghai Stock Exchange in September this year, said it had juvenile shareholders before issuing initial public offerings (IPO).

"We noticed the situation when doing checks of our shareholders,

but under relevant laws, regulations or other directives, there is no ban or restriction for people below age 18 holding shares," a bank representative said.

The bank stressed that there is no need to deal with the shares held by these young people, and the existence of the young shareholders is mainly due to the bank's restructuring in 1996 and capital increase in 2004.

Among the juveniles, *Beijing Youth Daily* found 35 people owned as many as 100,000 shares. A shareholder surnamed Zheng, age ten, acquired his first shares when he was age one. Now is the bank's 13th-largest shareholder with 1.3 million shares.

Though legal, child shareholders still draw questions and criticism from financial experts and Internet users.

Liu Jipeng, a capital market expert from the China University of Political Science and Law, said it was abnormal for a listed company to have so many under-aged shareholders, and the bank should expose information about their guardians.

"This kind of situation is not only very risky to these young shareholders, but also for the bank," Liu warned. "These 'inves-

tors' are too young to know the risks of the stock market."

It was not clear whether some of the guardians of the juveniles might be trying to take advantage of financial or tax benefits by shifting family assets to the young shareholders' accounts. However, policy makers fear that the phenomena might impact not only the economy, but social stability if the bubble bursts.

Emperor's memoirs declared intestate

By Huang Daohen

With no successor or will, the memoir of China's last emperor Aisin-Gioro Puyi's has been declared an intestate property to resolve a longstanding ownership dispute.

Beijing-based Qunzhong Publishing House, the publisher of Puyi's autobiography, filed suit at the People's Court of Beijing's Xicheng District to apply for intestate status on the copyright of *The First Half of My Life* - From Emperor to Citizen, a long-time bestseller by the last emperor.

The Qunzhong published his memoir in the 1960s under instruction from the state departments, and received positive response from the public. Aisin-Gioro died in 1967, and copyright passed to his wife Li Shuxian. In 1997, Shuxian died without children, and its copyright has been disputed ever since.

Last September, the court issued a proclamation after verifying the application, saying, "The copyright will transfer to the state if no one claims ownership within a year, and profits from the book's sale will be nationalized according to the law."

The publishing house did not comment on why it is seeking the declaration, but it began after reports that Puyi's younger brother, Jin Youzhi, 89, originally named Aisin-Gioro Puren, was seeking to claim the copyright.

The publishing house had a long dispute with Jin. Beijing Today reported last December that Jin lost a lawsuit claiming ownership of the emperor's image after the Palace Museum held an exhibition on his life.

However, the Beijing No 2 Intermediate People's Court ruled that Puyi was a public figure whose life was closely connected with Chinese history, and the display of the image did not infringe on the family's rights.

The autobiography, a memoir of the first half of the 20th Century seen through Puyi's eyes, depicts his changes in fortune after the last dynasty collapsed in 1911. Puyi started the book in 1957, and the government published it in 1964 after thorough editing by historians and experts.



Global volunteers join in panda protection efforts

More and more people from foreign countries are helping protect giant pandas nowadays. A volunteer from Australia (left) was working in the country's base for giant pandas' protection and research in Wolong, Sichuan Province, last month. Some 2,000 volunteers from foreign countries, including the US, Australia and Japan come to the base every year.

CFP Photo

Xiamen man builds five-square-meter tower for home

By Jiang Xubo

A local resident in Xiamen, Fujian Province, built a five-square-meter house as a jab at rocketing housing prices. His rocket-shaped house drew thousands of visitors during the National Day holiday.

The steel-framed house, with a toughened-glass exterior, was 2.5 meters long, two meters wide and 3.2 meters tall. Even with so little space, he managed to build an attic with a straw mat for a bed. The base floor was his living room, kitchen and toilet. A 3.2-meter-long pole, the staircase connecting the bedroom and living room.

"We even took the steel frame into account, and my house fits exactly within five square meters," Lu Guohua, 30, said. He views

himself as a representative of modern housing slaves. He spent his seven-day holiday in front of the gate of a local shopping center and drew thousands of visitors.

Despite living in the city since graduating from Xiamen University in 1999, Lu still found it impossible to afford a home after seven years' work.

"I saved 80,000 yuan, but it occurred to me that I could only afford five square meters for housing when I heard the price in June was 12,300 yuan per square meter. I talked with my friends to see if it was possible to build a house within five square meters," Lu said.

He posted his idea on a local online forum in July and got thousands of hits during the last two

months. Later came the shopping center, which was preparing for its grand opening during the holiday. It offered him a plot in front of its gate, in addition to free materials and labor.

Lu was happy despite that many people doubted whether the shopping center was sponsoring him for promotion, but he was sad that his new house was so far from the city's downtown where he works, limiting his stays there to weekends.

As an advertising employee, Lu earns about 50,000 yuan per year and shares a rented apartment with his friends downtown for 1,200 yuan per month.

Housing costs in Xiamen rose 11 percent in August, according to a National Bureau of Statistics report issued early last month.

Exposing themselves to protect the environment

By Han Manman

A hundred volunteers gathered in Nanjiang canyon, Kaiyang County, Guizhou Province, for a nude photography campaign organized by domestic body art photographer He Yuanbo to promote environmental protection.

Themed "Cherish Life, Protect Water," the shoot lasted an hour in the rapid river. The volunteers stood in the water or sat on stones, posing with open arms or meditating.

"I hope more and more people can be aware of the need for environmental protection. My campaign is not just to shoot some photos, but to attract public attention to our living environment," He said.

The 100 volunteers are mostly retired workers, non-professional models, exercise instructors, business owners and students. The ratio of men to women was four to one.

Although most of the volunteers were willing to show themselves to the public, some didn't want to be recognized by friends. A volunteer surnamed Yang, 20, said she wouldn't tell anyone about posing. "They can't recognize me in the photo since I was surrounded by so many other people."

He recalls his last photography fiasco three years ago, when he organized a "thousand nude men" session. The event was canceled by the government only days before shooting began due to media exposure.

Although the campaign failed, He keeps in touch with the volunteers, and some participated this time.

He admits that the series is sure to be debated, but "more and more Chinese begin to accept this kind of art," He said. "I would have been arrested by police and charged with 'organizing promiscuity' 20 years ago."

He said some years ago that held a body art photo exhibition in Xi'an, and many media covered it - but only alongside cases of criminal indecent activity.

"Society is still progressing," he said.

Jones surrenders Olympic medals



Jones holds up her five Olympic Medals for track and field events in Sydney, 2000.

By Huang Daohen

Marion Jones, the American three-time Olympic gold medalist, appeared again under the world spotlight, when the *Washington Post* broke a story last Thursday that she sent family and friends a letter in which she admitted to using steroids before the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

"I want to apologize for all of this," the *Post* quoted Jones as saying in her letter, citing a person who received a copy and read it to the paper.

The admission cost Jones the five medals she won in Sydney, where she was the most celebrated female athlete of the games.

Doping event

Jones admits to doping

White Plains (New York Times) – Marion Jones, the former track and field star who admitted Friday in federal court that she used performance-enhancing drugs in preparing for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, relinquished the five medals she won at those Games to the US Anti-Doping Agency yesterday.

Jones, who is facing a prison term, may also have to return more than US\$100,000 in bonuses.

Facing further action from IOC and IAAF

London (iht.com) – Even though she's handed back her Olympic medals, the sham-

ing of Marion Jones isn't over yet.

International Olympic and track and field officials are prepared to wipe her name officially from the record books, strip her of her world championship medals, pursue her for prize money and appearance fees and possibly ban her from future Olympics in any capacity.

Jones gave back the five medals on Monday, and the US Olympic Committee now will return the medals to the International Olympic Committee, which will decide what to do with them. Jones won golds in the 100 meters, 200 meters and the 1,600 relay in Sydney, as well as bronzes in the 400 relay and long jump.

Official response

IOC welcomes Jones' admission

London (Telegraph) – The International Olympic Committee has welcomed Marion Jones's decision to hand back the five medals she won at the 2000 Sydney Games following her admission that she used the banned steroid THG.

The IOC has set up a special disciplinary commission to look into how they will redistribute the three gold and two bronze medals the sprinter won seven years ago.

A spokeswoman for the IOC said, "We welcome this step. It was the honorable and right thing for her to do. This will help move things forward in terms of finding out more about the Balco case at large."

United States Olympic Committee apologizes

New Delhi (CNN) – After Marion Jones' admission of having taken steroids, the US's

Olympic Chief Peter Ueberroth apologized to the organizers and other competitors of the Sydney 2000 Games.

"We have written a letter of sincere and humble apology to the 205 national Olympic committees. In addition, we apologize to the athletes who were denied the podium and the chance to hear their national anthems," Peter Ueberroth said.

US pledges a drug-free team in Beijing

Los Angeles (APF) – US Olympic Committee chairman Peter Ueberroth said they would do their best to send a drug-free US team to the 2008 Beijing Olympics but admitted there were no guarantees.

"We pledge that the 2008 Olympic team will be completely clean," Ueberroth said. "That is the pledge of ours but there are never any absolute guarantees."

Impact in chain

IOC could redistribute medals

New York (AP) – The International Olympic Committee will spend the next two months examining how to adjust the medal standings for more than 40 athletes who competed with and against Marion Jones at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

The reallocation of medals is likely to be one of the largest that the IOC has conducted because of the breadth of Jones's accomplishments. She became the first woman to win five medals in track and field at the same Olympics.

Ottey expected ninth Olympic medal

Ljubljana (Reuters) – Jamaican-born sprinter Merlene Ottey could add to her record tally of eight Olympic medals thanks to the fall from grace of US rival Marion Jones.

Ottey, 40 at the time of the race, is now in line to receive the bronze. "I'm sure she will get that medal. That's automatic now," Ottey's Slovenian coach Srdjan Djordjevic said.

Djordjevic told Reuters in a telephone interview on Tuesday that Ottey hoped to participate at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, two years short of her 50th birthday.

Chinese reaction

By Huang Daohen

From the Jones case, it's easy to see that the US is a free and democratic country. A sports star can still receive the same punishment as a civilian. Well done, Jones!

– Tony Sun, college student

Forgive Jones! At least she's honest.

– Chen Jian, photographer

Marion, I really do not know why you did this. Perhaps technical sports racers bear a lot of physiological pressure that we ordinary

people just can't understand.

– Sharon Zhou, PR coordinator

Please have respect for the spirit of sport, and also pay attention to your health. To obtain so-called fame or wealth at the cost of your own health is not worth it.

– Zhang Wei, PE teacher

This might be a result of Olympic commercialization. Athletes should not train and strive for a gold medal just for fame.

– Song Guanghui, journalist



Three-time Olympic gold medalist Jones cries as she addresses the media during a news conference last Friday in New York, US.

IC Photos

Live feed forbidden in animal performances

By Jiang Xubo

Live animals, mainly domesticated, may no longer be fed to wild carnivores like lions, tigers, leopards and bears in most Chinese zoos and animal exhibits following new measures issued this month by the State Forestry Administration (SFA), the arm of the government charged with wild animal welfare.

"Performances which show the feeding of live animals to carnivores must end. We do not approve of wild animal performances which go against human sensibility," Cao Qingyao, spokesman for SFA, said.

The government plans to establish supervision panels across the country to stamp out such performances, even though they are very popular. Any facilities which break the rules will face hefty fines or even lose their license to organize animal performances, SFA's circular stated.

People are encouraged to report performances against the rules.

"Bloody and cruel animal performances have a negative impact on teenagers. These performances lead young people to believe that

animals are born to amuse human beings. These performances are also likely to induce teenage violence," Cao told the *Xiaoxiang Morning Post*.

"The prohibition will help improve animal welfare across the country. It protects teenagers and encourages morality," Zhou Guoying, deputy director of the Resources and Environment Department of the Central South University of Forestry and Technology, said.

"Though it is common throughout the world to feed live animals to carnivores to maintain their wild nature in captivity, it should be restricted to their training regiment – not included as part of commercial performances," Zhou added.

Live feedings have been a popular attraction in some urban zoos and wildlife reserves across the country.

Local newspapers in Changsha, Hunan Province, reported performances in a local park where visitors could dangle live birds on a string over a crocodile pit. In another park, visitors with cash can sponsor a live show and see a tiger rip a live ox into pieces.



Live feeding was a common scene across the country.

CFP Photo

Comment

The law of the jungle

Live animal feedings in the circus should be banned, but it's OK for wildlife reserves. They have to maintain the carnivores' wild nature, and it costs money, so it makes sense as long as people enjoy the performances and are willing to pay. After all, it's just a demonstration of the law of the jungle. Don't go if you

don't want to see it.

– anonymous net user

Think of the children

They just offer performances for money. Adults can tell right from wrong, but what about the children? They can't endure such traumatic psychological ordeals. For children's sake, we have to ban such brutal performances to ensure a better atmosphere for

their development.

– Nothing to say about death
Makes zoos boring

Using live animals is fine as long as it's in an enclosed place with signs warning the feeding experience may be too extreme for children, people with high blood pressure or the weak minded. Ending the performances will make zoos extremely

boring – all you can do then is learn the names of animals and what they look like, but nothing about how they live.

– chiller

Animals deserve respect

It's reasonable for the authorities to ban such savage performances. All animals are equal to human beings, and they are entitled to basic rights.

– Redstar

Killing for fun is shameful

It is shameless to end lives for fun. It is a savage violation against basic rights. All creatures are born to be equal. The law of the jungle is that we must kill to survive. It never says anything about killing for fun.

– flag

(Source: qq.com)

Disposable chopsticks boycott not without controversy



Whether or not to abandon the use of wooden chopsticks has been debated for years.

IC Photo

By Huang Daohen

Hotel and restaurant operators and patrons were asked by Green Peace to end use of disposable chopsticks to improve their health and protect the environment Tuesday in Beijing.

Green Peace, an environmental non-government organization (NGO), launched its boycott in hopes of stemming the country's rapid deforestation.

As many as 300 restaurants in the capital have pledged not to distribute disposable chopsticks.

"The country produces and discards as many as 45 billion pairs of wooden chopsticks every year at a cost of about 25 million trees," Green Peace's representative said.

"That's a heavy blow to the country's dwindling forests."

The use of disposable chopsticks has been debated for years.

Restaurant owners and consumers say they prefer them, and an entire industry revolves around their manufacture.

The government, in a bid to

discourage use of wooden chopsticks and protect timber resources, imposed a five percent consumption tax on them in April.

To push restaurants to become more environmentally friendly and energy efficient, the Ministry of Commerce recently issued a range of provisions relating to the catering industry to discourage use of wooden chopsticks.

Still, hygiene and convenience concerns have left some of the public and hotel owners clinging to their kuaizi despite the boycott.

Comment

Diners prefer chopsticks

I would be happy to stop using wooden chopsticks for the environment, but some of my diners demand them for hygienic reasons.

– Wang Cheng

Curb the spread of disease

One-use tableware and

chopsticks are necessary to curb the spread of hepatitis and other diseases. Tableware in some restaurants is never properly sanitized, and the disposable chopsticks help to control hepatitis.

The environment is important, but so are people's lives.

Legal gray area

There is no law on this in China. The Government needs to come up with a substitute for disposable chopsticks rather than just tax them. Tax won't make a difference.

– topgun_85

– Walter Tan

Recycle chopsticks

The chopsticks should be recycled to make paper and other related paper products like cardboard boxes and wrappers. What about metal chopsticks made with a light alloy and washable just like ordinary metal cutlery?

Not all hygienic

Disposable chopsticks aren't all that hygienic. Try to stick them in water for 15 minutes and watch what floats off if you want to see how dirty they really are.

– Jessica

– Get Busy

Israeli diplomat honors 'China's Schindler'



He Manli (left) and Israel's ambassador Amos Nadai (right) paying respects to 'China's Schindler', He Fengshan at his burial site. CFP Photo

By Han Manman

"The noble deeds of 'China's Schindler' He Fengshan will never be forgotten," Amos Nadai, Israel's new ambassador to China, said at He's burial site in Yiyang, Hunan Province.

On behalf of the Israeli government, Nadai presented an Honorary Commemorative Citizenship certificate to the family of He Fengshan to memorialize his effort to rescue thousands of Jewish escapees from Nazi-controlled Germany during World War II.

Helping the Jews

"After Krystalnacht in 1938, the situation of 200,000 Austrian Jews rapidly worsened. In order to leave the country, they had to provide proof of emigration," Amos said. At the Evian Conference in 1938, when 32 countries failed to take a stand against Germany, getting a visa became nearly impossible.

"Acting against the orders of

his superior, He, unlike his fellow-diplomats, began issuing visas to Shanghai. He continued to issue the visas until he was ordered to return to China in May 1940," Nadai said.

"We have a saying that he who saves even one life is looked upon by people as if he has saved the world. In He's case, he saved hundreds," the ambassador said.

Silent hero

He neither sought nor received recognition for his deeds during his lifetime. It was only by chance, after his death in 1997, that his having aided thousands of Austrian Jews in escaping the Holocaust came to light.

Manli said that at the time of her father's death, the family still knew nothing about his work. It was by chance that she read her father's memoirs on his 40 years of work as a diplomat. In the memoirs, he briefly mentioned helping the Jewish refugees.

"It took me ten years of research and documentation to piece together the history of my father's humanitarian efforts," Manli said. As her investigative efforts deepened, many Jewish people who once received her father's help or their children contacted her.

As more and more came forward, the extent of her father's work grew clearer, she said.

"Some survivors said that they visited 50 consulates in Vienna at that time, but none were willing to risk offending the Germans by issuing them a visa. When they saw my father, they were instantly granted 20 visas," she said.

"My father was the kind of man who was always helping others but would never brag. It's like the Chinese proverb 'A good deed performed for others to see is not truly a good deed,'" Manli said.

"However, what made me research his acts was not that I am his daughter, but that this is a

part of history which should not be forgotten," she said.

Background

From 1938 to 1940, He was the former Chinese consul general in Austria. He defied the Nazi threat and warnings from the Chinese ambassador in Germany – his immediate superior – and chose to issue thousands of "life visas" to Jews to help them flee Vienna.

As many as 50,000 Jewish people fled Europe to China during the war. The Jewish community in Shanghai was the largest in the Far East at that time.

He was decorated with Israel's highest award that can be given to non-Jews, the Righteous Among the Nations award, in 2001. His name has been carved on the Honor Wall of the Garden of the Righteous of Nations with the inscription "Chinese who should never be forgotten."

Singapore Season opens with exhibition

By Gan Tian

A design exhibition "Hybridity: Singapore" kicks off tomorrow. Its world premiere coincides with Singapore Season in China 2007. Seven Singaporean designers were invited to participate in the exhibition, show their works and their attitude toward Beijing citizens.

Designers participating include Lim Sau Hoong, specialist in visual communication, architect Tan Kay Ngee, jewelry designer Shing, fashion designer Ashley Isham, toy designer Play

Imaginative and designers Donna Ong and Jessie Lim. The designers bring Singapore's rich and diverse culture to the international arena.

"One of the great privileges of design is the chance to exercise one's imagination, to think up possibilities, develop concepts, transform and represent ideas in reality and advance better ways to enable others to realize their potential and enhance their quality of life," Milton Tan, director of the DesignSingapore Council, said.

The name and theme of the exhibition imply Singapore's ethnic diversity has created a fertile ground for producing a new hybrid creativity. "To be sure, these situations (opportunities to share design) seldom come ready-made; tenacious designers shape them, often bringing additional things to the party, much like a creative chef who cooks up a surprising variation on a recipe," he said.

The organizers said they aim to put Singapore on the world's creative map, and bring the coun-

try's innovative designs to business boardrooms, new audiences and new markets in China.

The exhibition ends October 21, at which time new Singapore activities will begin. Fashion by Ashley Isham will be shown at Gala Dinners in Beijing and Shanghai. The galas will feature Singapore creative talents like producer Daniel Boey and composer Iskander Ismail. A hair stylist team and models from Singapore, including international model Junita Simon, will be part of the show.

FENGYUNCast systems donated to 11 countries

By Jackie Zhang

In a move to aid developing Asian nations, 11 FENGYUNCast receiving stations are being donated to several countries to help them hook into China's meteorological network.

Ambassadors from the recipient countries, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kirghizstan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam, attended the receiving ceremony Wednesday at the China Meteorological Administration (CMA).

The Chinese National Satellite Meteorological Center collects data from China's FY satellites and other overseas satellites, then classifies and processes the data before distributing it to the Asia Pacific region via a telecommunication satellite.

Receiving stations will allow these 11 countries to plug into the network and receive the collected data directly and at no cost.

"The system has a daily satellite broadcasting bandwidth of 23GB. The data has many uses, including weather analysis and prediction of climate change, natural disaster surveillance, environmental monitoring and agricultural services," Yang Jun, director general of National Satellite Meteorology Center, CMA, said.

FENGYUNCast was designed by the CMA to combine the functions of satellite data collection, dissemination and application. It connects to the regional GEONETCast system, a near real time global network of satellite-based data dissemination systems that are used to help detect and predict dangerous weather patterns and natural disasters.

"Natural disasters like floods, tsunamis and dry spells can be neither controlled nor stopped. Collecting information comprehensively and making preparations is quite important," Karunatilaka Amunugama, the ambassador of Sri Lanka, said. "The receiving station will help us foresee potential danger from natural disasters. It is especially useful for developing countries."

A symposium on Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) is currently underway. Professional staff from the 11 countries came to Beijing to attend the symposium. They will receive training on how to use the receiving stations to provide practical services upon return to their countries.

Migrant children get road safety lesson

By Huang Daohen

Migrant students from Beijing Yuhui Experimental Primary School got an opportunity Wednesday to learn the meaning of automobile lights and safe pedestrian behavior.

'Safe Kids Walk This Way' is a pedestrian safety initiative in as many as 250 schools nationwide, and is sponsored by FedEx Express and Safe Kids China, a member of a global non-governmental network protecting children from accidental injuries and death.

Under volunteer instruction, students from the migrant school learned about automobile lights and witnessed how they function.

"I was not very clear about automobile lights and what they meant before. We were always frightened when an vehicle came around," Wu Xia, a 11-year-old girl from the school, said. "It is the first time I've been taught about auto lights, learning that the red stoplights are at the back and the flickering yellow turn lights are at the front," she said.

A Safe Kids official said ordinary parents and school authorities normally teach children about traffic lights and how to walk across the road, but seldom mention the meaning of automobile lights.

"In fact, children can effectively avoid traffic accidents if they understand these vehicular lights and take proper actions," Monica Cui, director of Safe Kids China, said.

"It is the first time that we have launched such a program in a migrant school, and we hope to promote it in more schools," she said.

Statistics from Safe Kids Worldwide show that, after drownings, traffic accidents are the second leading cause of accidental death amongst Chinese children.

Most of these deaths occur in low-income households, such as migrant families in major cities. A survey conducted by the network said that migrant children are most at-risk for these types of road injuries since 99.4 percent of them walk to school everyday.

International design masters paint China

By Gan Tian

Eight internationally-famous designers were invited to participate in the project, "Design for China," which began last August, and five of them paid a visit to Beijing this past Wednesday to show the audience their works.

Italy's Ilaria Marelli, France's Emmanuel Gallina, Holland's Chris Kabel, Australia's Jarrod Lim and China's Zhu Pei with Wu Tong all showed up to address the Chinese media. "I hope this new experiment will be a big success for us. We know that Chinese ancient furniture, patterns and marks are really amazing," Gallina said.

Kabel commented on the Chinese furniture design market before he introduced his works. He showed the audience a picture of a luxurious bedroom he took at a Chinese friend's home and said that he couldn't tell from the bedroom's design whether it was Chinese or not. "I think China has lost a little bit of its visual identity," he said. "You see a lot of American or European designs in the Chinese market with fewer Chinese elements. I feel that China is losing its rich furniture design history."

In Kabel's designs, he combines Chinese and Western elements. There is a work called "Lazy Porcelain," which looks like a big plate in the middle of a dinner table. "This object in the middle of the dinner table is a lazy Susan. People rotate it to reach the dishes on the other



British designer Katty Barac shows off her work to Beijing citizens. Photo provided by Design for China Committee.

side of the table. However, I used porcelain to identify it as Chinese dishes and bowls and I call it Lazy Porcelain."

Marelli used Chinese philosophy in her designs. "One thing I like a lot about Chinese philosophy is the changes from small to big," she said. "You need to combine different pieces. In my designs, you can play with different shapes, sizes and colors.

You can arrange them according to your needs," she said.

"Design for China" is presented by the Italian furniture company Boloni and Chinese fashion magazine Trendshome. It invites internationally-renowned designers to make products for the Chinese way of life, and later market them. The other three designers will arrive in Beijing in the middle of next month.

Events

Booktalk: Road to Heaven: Encounters with Chinese hermits

Over the past eighteen years, Bill Porter has interviewed dozens of hermits and Zen masters in China in an effort to better understand the poetry and sutras he has translated in *Red Pine*. He will show slides and discuss the nature and importance of China's monastic and hermit traditions and also provide an explanation for the success of Zen in China.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 16

Tel: 6586 9507

Lecture: History and Evolution of the Great Wall

Li Jianping, researcher from the Beijing Academy of Social Science, shares the history of the Great Wall from the Qin (221-206 BC) to Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and during the Sino-Japanese war period in 1940's. The lecture will be conducted in Chinese with English interpretation.

Where: Room 201, Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm-9:30pm, October 17.

Cost: 40 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (9am-6am, Monday-Friday), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, re-routed to mobile phone)

(By He Jianwei)

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The new No 5 subway line is Beijing's first north-south underground line.

CFP Photo

City's new subway line launched

By Han Manman

Beijing opened a new subway line on Sunday in a bid to boost public transport and ease road congestion just ahead of the Olympics. It is also Beijing's first north-south underground line, and is equipped with new technology.

After nearly five years construction, the 27.6-kilometer line, takes 49 minutes to cover all 23 stations. It connects the north to the south with 23 stops from Tiantongyuan North station in the northern Beijing's Changping district to Songjiazhuang station in the Fengtai district.

The line passes through key Beijing tourist sites including Dongdan, Tiantan (Temple of Heaven)

and large communities like Tiantongyuan.

"The launch of the No 5 subway line indicates that Beijing's rail transport is on a track of fast development," Liu Qi, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC (Communist Party of China) Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, said at the opening ceremony.

Convenient facility

Line 5 is Beijing's first subway line equipped with an integrated information system. It also boasts many added features not found on the current subway lines.

LCD screens at the platforms and inside subway cars provide passengers with up-to-the-minute

weather information, train schedules and passengers will never lose the signal on their mobile phones. During next year's games, passengers on the way to an event won't miss any of the action.

The subway cars are wider and taller than the old ones, and are designed to reach speeds of up to 80 kilometers per hour. In addition, elevators designed to aid disabled people have been installed.

All platforms will have glass walls to prevent passengers from falling onto the tracks. The carriage floor is constructed of non-slip material. Mobile phone signals can be picked up anywhere along the line.

Each entrance has a designated

place for passengers to leave their bikes and along the line there are also car parking lots.

Ticket Prices

A new subway pricing system has been adopted, cutting subway fares by 30 percent. A one-way ticket costs just two yuan, about the price of a bottle of purified water. Prices do not vary no matter how long one travels or transfers between lines.

"Urban public transport should be given priority and related services should be improved consistently," Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan said.

One-year trial operation

"Line 5 will operate on a trial period for one year," Ding Shukui,

deputy general manager of Beijing Track Traffic Construction and Management Co Ltd, said.

He said it is impossible for all equipment to work reliably immediately when you take into account that there are nearly 100,000 pieces of equipment involved in the operation of the line. The builders have done their best to put the system into a relatively stable operating condition and to minimize the possibility of system malfunction, but there is no guarantee that the system will not break down during the trial period.

He said that the pilot runs will take another year, despite the earlier smooth experimental operation of the railcars without loads.

INTERPOL seeks public help to stop sexual predator

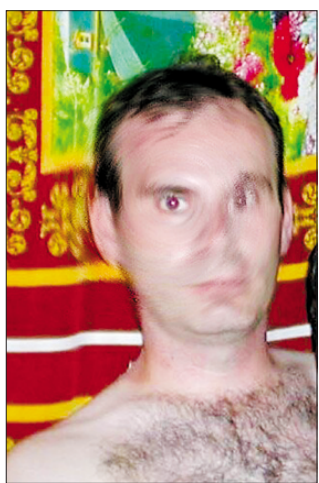
By Jiang Xubo

INTERPOL made a public worldwide request this week for assistance in identifying a man who was photographed sexually abusing children in a series of images posted on the Internet. It's the first time the organization has made such an appeal.

The organization produced an identifiable picture of the man thanks to help from specialists and posted it on its website, although the original picture had been digitally altered by the suspect to disguise his face.

"For years, images of this man sexually abusing children have been circulating on the Internet. We have tried all other means to identify and bring him to justice, but we are now convinced that, without the public's help, this sexual predator will continue to rape and sexually abuse young children with ages ranging from six up to their early teens," Ronald Noble, INTERPOL secretary general, wrote in a statement on INTERPOL's website.

INTERPOL believes that the



The man wanted.

Photo provided by interpol.int

pictures, around 200 in total featuring 12 different young boys, were taken in Vietnam and Cambodia.

"We have very good reason to believe that he travels the world in order to sexually abuse and exploit vulnerable children," Noble said.

The group has received over

200 responses from around the world, including photographs, names and locations. The appeal, which attracted worldwide attention, brought millions of hits to INTERPOL's website - 20 times more than the average daily number for the website, the statement said.

"The public response has been very positive. All the information provided is being carefully assessed and analyzed to ensure that any lead can be properly followed," Kristin Kvigne, assistant director of INTERPOL's Trafficking in Human Beings Unit, which manages the global search operation, said. "However, we are certainly not encouraging members of the public to take any direct action themselves, particularly since any positive identification would need to be confirmed by law enforcement authorities," she added.

Any questions or information can be sent to INTERPOL's Trafficking in Human Beings Unit at www.interpol.int/public/thb/vico/default.asp.

Phase two of Olympic ticketing to begin

By Han Manman

The second phase of Olympic ticket sales will start later this month. Customers who did not clear their payment for the first phase before the deadline, however, cannot take part in the purchase of second phase tickets, said Rong Jun, director of Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) Ticketing Center.

A similar ordering process to phase one will be conducted in phase two, which will take place from October to December 2007. Remaining available tickets from phase one and the other 50 percent of the competition tickets for sale domestically will be open to the public during this period. Tickets can be ordered through the official website, at designated Bank of China outlets or the ticketing call center, but in the phase operation, tickets will be sold on a "first-come, first-serve" basis.

At the moment, a deadline for the first phase payment col-

lection has not yet been set. To ensure the rights of the applicants, BOCOG will set the date according to the circumstances. "In any case, the deadline cannot be postponed indefinitely, as the follow-up work cannot be affected," he stressed.

BOCOG will give ticket buyers an opportunity to call a hotline at 010-952008 to check their lottery and payment results so that they can complete their payment on time.

BOCOG has initiated a three-phase ticketing process for domestic sales. In each phase, residents on the Chinese mainland will be able to order tickets through the official ticketing website (<http://tickets.beijing2008.com>), calling the BOCOG ticketing call center at 010-952008 or through designated Bank of China branches.

A real-time sales process will be conducted in phase three from April 2008 until the end of the Olympics where tickets will be issued directly upon payment.

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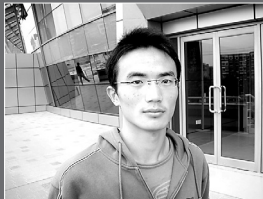

健興利
KIN HING LEE

Comment



The color of the chairs is blue, which is suitable for badminton competition. I can see the badminton games clearly. The chairs are comfortable. I didn't feel tired when I sat for a long time.

— Tong Wei, cheer squad member



Although it is an international game, I hope the umpire will announce the score not only in English, but also in Chinese. And it will mention that this competition is being held in China.

— Jiang Jianwei, BUT student



I'm satisfied with the volunteers' work. They gave us a cordial welcome when we arrived at the venue. I'm over 80 years old. The volunteers even helped me when I went to the washroom.

— Ren Hong, a retired professor

This gymnasium is suitable for a badminton competition. The speed of wind and the light didn't annoy me during the competition.

— Zhang Ning, top seed in the Women's Single

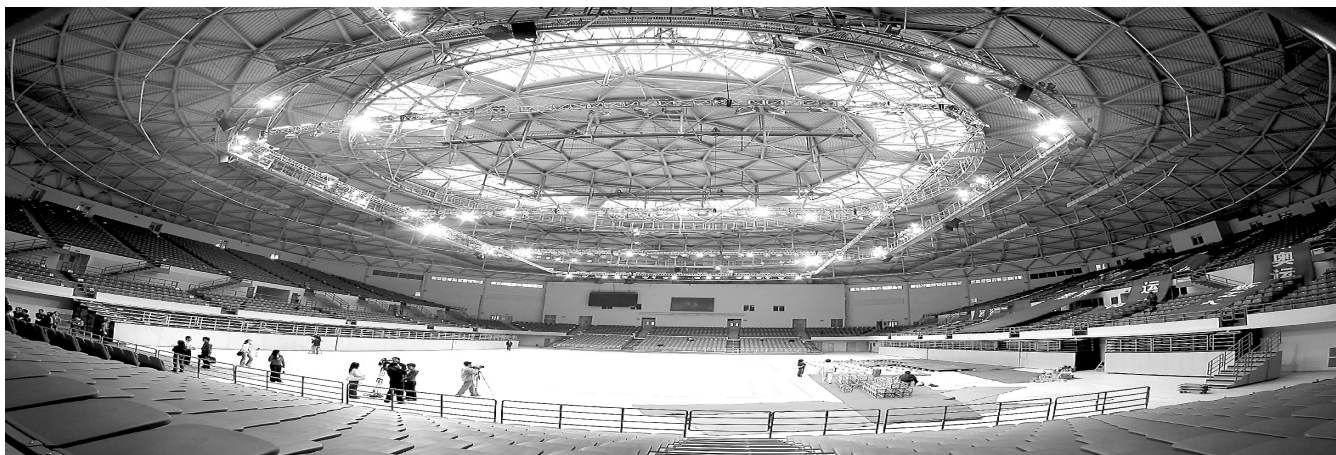


I attended the Good Luck Beijing's test events before. The media room looks a little bit small as compared to the other venues' media rooms. Although different teams are in charge of different venues, we can see all the teams operate with a singular goal in mind, to provide perfect service to the athletes, spectators and media.

— Liu Yang, a reporter from the Beijing News

Photos by He Jianwei

Birdies fly at the Technology Gym



The Beijing University of Technology Gymnasium

CFP Photos

By He Jianwei

West of East Fourth Ring Road down Sifang Bridge you can find a silver gymnasium resembling a giant badminton birdie with plenty of seating. The gymnasium includes a competition hall and a warm-up hall.

The Beijing University of Technology (BUT) Gymnasium is the only Olympic venue located in Beijing's southeastern area. Next year, it will serve as the Badminton and Rhythmic Gymnastics venue for the 2008 Olympics. And this year, the "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 International Badminton Invitational Tournament will be held at the venue from October 10 to 14.

High technology

The BUT Gymnasium has earned world record status in suspension dome structures. It boasts the world's largest pre-stressed suspension dome ceiling. "The steel used in producing the structure weighs less than 1,200 tons," Zhang Ailin, the vice president of the BUT and the executive president of Organizing Committee of 2007 International Badminton Invitational Tournament, said.

Badminton has strict requirements for wind speed during competition. The International Badminton Federation's (IBF) standard is a

constant room temperature of 26 degrees Celsius, with a wind speed of no higher than 0.2 meters per second.

The BUT Gymnasium is equipped with an advanced ventilation and air conditioning system. "The BUT Gymnasium can match the IBF wind speed standard and also keep the room temperature constant at 25 degrees Celsius," Zhang said.

The secret lies in the spectator seats. "Underneath every other seat, there are three vents, a total of 9,100 vents are located throughout the gymnasium," he said.



Xie Xingfang, second seed in the World's Women's Singles

The event and its price

Of the 113 athletes competing, 112 are from China. The world's top athletes attend this invitational tournament, including Lin Dan, the Men's Single champ and Zhang Ning, the Women's Singles champion.

Flash photography is prohibited in the gymnasium, as it will influence the competition. "It is the hardest part, con-

trolling the use of flash bulbs," Du Feng, manager of Audience's Service Department at the BUT Gymnasium, said.

"We will remind visitors through our broadcasts and the volunteers inside the gymnasium will also caution spectators not to use flash bulbs," he said.

The maximum tickets sold

every day is 3,000, and the price is proportionate to the levels of competition. The ticket for the Qualifications, which are held on October 10 and 11, is 20 or 30 yuan, 30 or 60 yuan for the Quarter Finals held on October 12, 50 or 100 yuan for the Semi Finals held on October 13 and 80 or 150 yuan for the Finals on October 14.

Environmentally-friendly

A number of energy-saving and environmental-friendly techniques are employed at the BUT Gymnasium to meet the demand of the Green Olympics theme, Zhang said.

The ground-source heating system is utilized in the winter. "It is clean energy. The water originates from about 2,000 meters beneath the ground and it is around 50 degrees

Celsius. It will be used to heat the gymnasium through the pipes," he said.

In the summer, a water-source heat pump will be in place to cool the gymnasium. "The hot air will travel from 200 meters underground, eliminating air pollution," he said.

The lighting system also contributes to energy saving.

"We installed a high-tech emitting LED (Light Emitting Diodes) system. A bulb with three or four watts can produce as much light as a 40-watt bulb," he said.

The rainwater recycling system is also set up in the gymnasium. "The colorful concrete floor is not just a pretty ornament, it serves as a rainwater recycling system," he said.

Transportation

As the BUT Gymnasium is located inside the BUT campus, it is convenient for spectators to reach the locale by bus. There are eight bus stations around BUT and 21 bus routes connect to those stations.

As well as the general bus routes, the "Good Luck Beijing" special bus is also available and travels from Dabeyao Nan station to the BUT station. Besides the two terminals, the passengers can get on the bus at the other four stations, including the Capital Library, North of Panjiayuan Bridge or the North of Shuangjing Bridge stations.

The special bus will be in use three hours before the beginning of the first match and on the road again one hour after the end of the last match every day. The time interval is every six or seven minutes.

The venue will not provide parking for visitors who drive their cars to the matches. "Please don't park your car on the campus, because it will upset the students' normal campus life," he said.

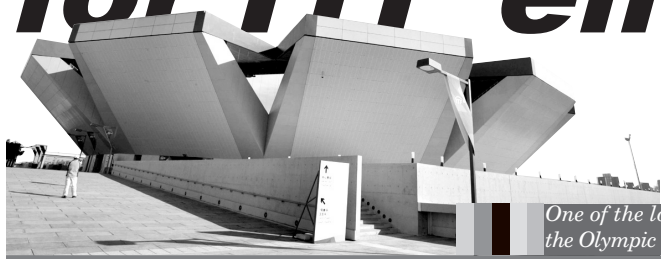
Cultural legacy

Zhang said that, at the start of the construction of the BUT Gymnasium, the entire BUT campus underwent re-planning to bring a better balance between people, nature, the school's architecture, and the environment, with emphasis on post-Games use of the new venue.

Following the Games next August, the BUT Gymnasium will remain an important cultural legacy of the 2008 Games. It will become a landmark building on the school's campus as well as for Beijing's southeastern area.

The gym will serve both the school and the public. "It will serve as the school's activity center, as a recreation center for the neighboring residents, and as a training base for the national badminton team," Zhang said.

Green Tennis Center blossoms for ITF elites



One of the lotus-shaped courts in the Olympic Green Tennis Center

By Jiang Xubo

Lotus-shaped courts in the Olympic Green Tennis Center, the venue which will host next year's Olympic tennis games, blossomed to receive 80 teenage tennis players from 13 countries and regions this week for the Good Luck Beijing 2007 ITF Pro Circuit being held from October 6 to 20.

Comment



I have to wear a backpack with a blowing machine and a five-kilogram storage battery when I put on my inflatable outfit and take on the role of Fuwa mascot. I only have a narrow view, and I have to stretch my legs all the time, which makes it difficult to walk. When the wind gets strong, it's hard to keep my balance. People cannot see my smile inside the suit, but, they really love to see me, especially the children. I am glad to bring joy to people and help to make the event go so well.

— Xie Bing, Fuwa mascot, volunteer



The venue is really nice. It was exciting to win my game here. All the people here are very kind to us, smiling and trying to speak English. The hotel and food are okay, but it would be better if they could offer more western food. Anyway, I really enjoyed my stay here.

— Go Soeda, player, Japan



Spectators are not allowed to walk around, enter or leave the courts during tennis games, only during breaks. This causes more problems with trying to control spectators than at other events. Yet it improved my skills when communicating with different types of people and offered me a chance to enhance my ability to cope with emergencies. Anyway, it is the experience of a lifetime to be a volunteer.

— Huang Na, usher, volunteer

Photos by Jiang Xubo/
Zhao Hongyi

Security

Some 4,000 people and 200 vehicles moved in and out of the tennis center every day during the two-week ITF event. This made security a job demanding tremendous labor and extreme prudence. As Ni Guoquan, deputy director of the security department, put it, "Security check points make up the only defense line to achieve event security."

The organizers prepared a security team of over 300 people for the event, including police and volunteers, who are on duty at two check points.

Security checks for spectators obviously require patience, in addition to a great sense of responsibility, keen eyes and skills. Vehicle checks are even more demanding.

"The greatest threat from vehicles comes in the form of prohibited goods like explosives. Some 200 vehicles for media and organizer staff members enter the venue daily. We have to conduct thorough checks of every vehicle within two minutes, especially the four key parts like the hood, the fuel tank, the passenger doors and the trunk. It is more demanding than the

spectator checks," Ni explained.

And there is always more needing to be done no matter how they are careful.

"The upper level is for spectator flow and the lower level is for the organizers, media and athletes. The two areas should have been separated from each other for security's sake. Yet the design has left 30 informal channels between the two levels, which makes a great loophole in the security network. We have to relocate our force and set up more security positions in these extra channels," Ni said.



Chinese player Liu Meng

The venue

Located at the Olympic Forest Park in the northern part of the city, the Olympic Green Tennis Center has ten competition courts and six training courts with a total capacity of 17,400 seats. Yet, the central court, the No 1 and No 2 courts are no doubt the most outstanding ones within the venue. With the Olympic Forest Park nearby as their backdrop, the three main dodecagonal courts, blossom like huge lotuses. Their stands, which appear to be pale gray from the outside due to their bare cement surfaces, reach for the sky like floral petals.

However, the courts are not just beautiful. With the introduction of technology, including natural ventilation, heat preservation technology, heat recycling, the use of solar energy, a ground source heat pump and a zero-discharge sewage treatment system, the tennis center stands as an example of cost and energy-efficient venues.

The courts' ventilation system serves as a good example of how well human design can go hand in hand with natural power. Several sets of ventilation equipment have been installed in the 12 stands of

the court to take in fresh air. Circulation mechanisms then help transport the cool air to the courts ground surface through vents located at the bottom of the stands, decreasing by five degrees Celsius, both the temperature of the court ground and the stands, the designer explained.

"A combination of machine ventilation and fresh air circulation adopted for the tennis center not only copes effectively with high temperatures within the tennis courts, but also prevents the production of vortex in the venue," Zheng Fang, the designer from the China State Construction International Shenzhen Design Consulting Company, said.

As a result, the venue is not only environment-friendly, but tennis-fan-friendly.

The stands are a bit steeper than stands in regular tennis courts to offer better viewing. "Balls fly at very high speeds in tennis games, especially when the players serve, and tennis balls are quite small. Deeper stands help fans to see what the players are doing and which direction the ball is traveling, which brings greater pleasure to the fans," Zheng said.

Medical service

The Peking Union Medical College Hospital took the leading role in offering medical services for the test event. Nine doctors and six nurses from the hospital, alongside 18 volunteers from the Peking Union Medical College made up the medical corp.

In addition, the event organizers arranged four ambulances and a first aid panel with medical members from nearby hospitals including the Dongcheng Hospital.

Though the event's medical department has a small team, Wang Zhong, manager of the department, says he's confident the team will provide the best medical services for the event.

Wang's confidence comes partly from the detailed preparation efforts. As part of the preparation, the department even drafted a special map, which gives clear views of the venue layout.

"We have to be prepared for emergencies all the time here. Time means life for patients,

so we have taken all the procedures into account and worked out the best time saving routes. The venue is very large, and it could mean disaster if we went in the wrong direction. So we designed this map to help us," Wang said.

The young elite tennis players are no doubt superstars on the tennis courts, but the medical department also has its own local superstars, namely the massage therapists.

As part of the medical service, the organizers set up a massage room right next to the athletes' locker, where four massage therapists busily relieve athletes from around the world with their magical hands.

"We conduct our massage treatments for athletes to meet their different needs," Zhou Ban, a therapist for male athletes, said. "For athletes who want a warm-up before the game, we just rub their joints and stimulate their nervous systems to rejuvenate their muscles," Zhou said.



The interior of the Central Court in the center

CFP Photos

Beautiful

Contemporary visu

By He Jianwei

At a time when economic and environ-

there any chance for our world to see be-

The visual culture produced in Japa-

the exhibition *Beautiful New World: Co*

contemporary Japanese society from

associated with a world that is "beauti

This exhibition is presented by 34 Japanese creators. Although focused on contemporary Japanese art, it also includes media art, architecture, fashion, *anime* and *manga*, Japanese for cartoons and comics, and other facets of popular culture.

This is the first exhibition to be presented in China that comprehensively introduces contemporary Japanese culture from the 1990s up to the present. The display is divided into three sections in three galleries respectively: Beautiful Real World at Long March Project, New Media World at Inter Arts Space and End of the World and Future at Beijing Tokyo Art Projects (BTAP).

Beautiful Reality

The works in this section represent expressions derived from reconsidering the value standards for "beauty" and re-evaluating the idea of "reality." "Here, the focus is on contemporary phenomena that reveal the notion of beauty in the real world, and a new awareness of the values and the realities of everyday life," Kataoka Mami, senior curator of Mori Art Museum in Japan and one of the curators for this exhibition, said.

Some of the works define "beauty" based on projected female images in commercial advertisements and the fashion industry; some focus on *kawaii* culture, as well as the personal world view of *hitori-asobi* (playing alone) that originates from this culture; some represent the attitude of artists who have discovered new values and realities from their everyday surroundings and events.

With transparent complexions and large, deep eyes, android-like young women stare at on-lookers. At first glance, each face may look identical, but on closer examination, you will notice, starting with the hairline, the expression and color of the eyes, that each of the faces is distinct.

Watanabe Go creates pure white android-like images of young women with computer graphics. He generates these female faces by taking individual photos of different models, digitally manipulating them and then pasting them into an original, computer-generated mold.

This process, which resembles that of a skin transplant, diminishes individual facial features to a minimum. "Their bloodless beauty conveys a sense of uncanniness due to the artificial manipulation that combines different surfaces with different interiors," Kataoka said.

The video work *Rompers* by Odani Motohiko shows a girl playing with strange animals and creatures. "At first glance, it seems like an animal film for children, but a closer look reveals a combination of danger and uncertainty bubbling below the surface with cuteness and purity. It highlights the ambivalent nature of any concept of beauty," Kataoka said.

Yanagi Miwa's *My Grandmothers* is a series of photographs representing several young women after being aged 50 years. This display, which established Yanagi's international notability, deals with value judgments of beauty and social issues, such as an aging population.

The models' views of doom and rebirth are somewhat influenced by contemporary *anime* and *manga*. "It conveys a positive view of real life based on extensive communication with her models," Kataoka said.

Kaneuji Teppei's materials and images, including pieces of driftwood and colorful strands of hair, are all familiar everyday objects. "In his work, which appears to be an extension of child's play, fixed frameworks and outlines are gradually broken down, quietly allowing new ideas and concepts to enter as if our preconceptions are melting and dissolving," Kataoka said.



Teenage Fan Club, Kaneuji Teppei



onmental problems are having a global impact, is
 auty and hope?
 n since the 1990s, which is being presented in
contemporary Visual Culture from Japan, explores
 many angles through a diversity of expressions
 ful" and "new."

al culture from Japan

and new

New Media World – new means of communication

The art of new media has changed the ways in which we view the world. The works that tune into the new possibilities of communication and physical sensibilities are becoming increasingly important when considering contemporary society.

"In this section, we focus on physical sensations aroused by new media, centering on moving images and sound," Kataoka said. The works here include not only those works that incorporate new technology, but also those that relate to urban environment and fashion.

The video works *Tokyo Scanner* supervised by animation film director Oshii Mamoru, captures urban scenes of Tokyo using a high-vision aerial camera. The city is seen from above its skyscrapers in one instance, and then the lens suddenly swoops down to ground level and waves of people walking on the street or workers in office building windows.

Owing to the fusion between sound, visual and graphic effects, the speed and scale unique to Tokyo are effectively depicted with much realism, enabling the viewers to virtually experience the cityscape.

"The robots presented by the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) help us gain a new awareness of the nature of perception in the new media and suggest further possibilities of communication," Kataoka said.

Highly sophisticated in their makeup, these robots are popular, not only among enthusiasts, but also among a broad base of users. They demonstrate the ways in which technology could play an integral part in enhancing human capabilities.

End of the World and Future World – death and rebirth

This section touches on the deep-seated apocalyptic worldview in Japanese society and culture, together with visions of the future. This dark prediction is shaped by the disintegration of society and the collapse of urban cities at the mercy of natural disasters. War and genocide, as well as death and the fear of confronting it, intertwined with visions for the future, are projected showing cities in rejuvenation, and cities of the future.

Some of the works here signify eternity and sustainability in relation to these themes. "The ideas of the end of the world are found in Judaism and Christianity in the West, yet an interest in destruction and salvation, the end of the world and a world after death, figures prominently in other religions and cultures as well," Kataoka said.

Yanobe Kenji, an artist who deals with themes of survival and revival, was raised near the former site of Expo 1970 in Osaka and was influenced by its bleak, desolate appearance. He also wore an atom suit with a Geiger counter and entered the polluted area after the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster.

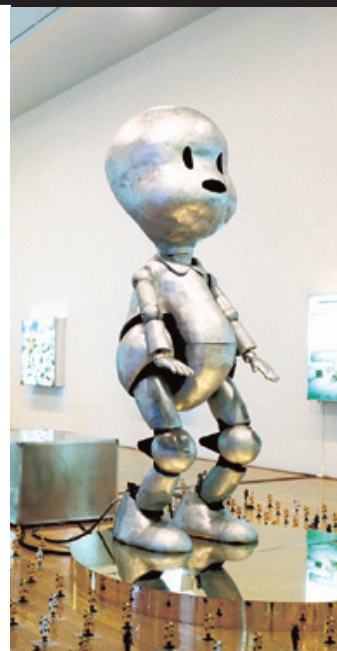
The artist was inspired by a doll and a picture of the sun he accidentally found in a destroyed nursery school that led him to create, Standa, a doll that is an A-bomb victim transformed into a giant, rising to its feet.

This action, which symbolizes a small child strongly rising on his own and looking upwards, alludes to a narrative that concludes in "rebirth" after experiencing different stages of peril and anxiety.

He also created *Cinema in the Woods*, which is a nuclear shelter and movie theater for children that shows educational films about nuclear power.

"His works intensely embody a primordial instinct for survival. They represent the story of rebirth, characterized by a convoluted mixture of the realities and fantasies surrounding the artist," Kataoka said.

Hatakeyama Naoya's *Blast* captures a moment from a mine explosion. The images are detached from the scene, which would have normally been accompanied by a blasting sound, creating an interval of mysterious time that transcends normal human perception. The viewer feels great solemnity and grandeur.



Standa, Yanobe Kenji



Blast, Hatakeyama Naoya



Nishiyama Minako and her Untitled



Chapter Three "Wreck", Konoike Tomoko

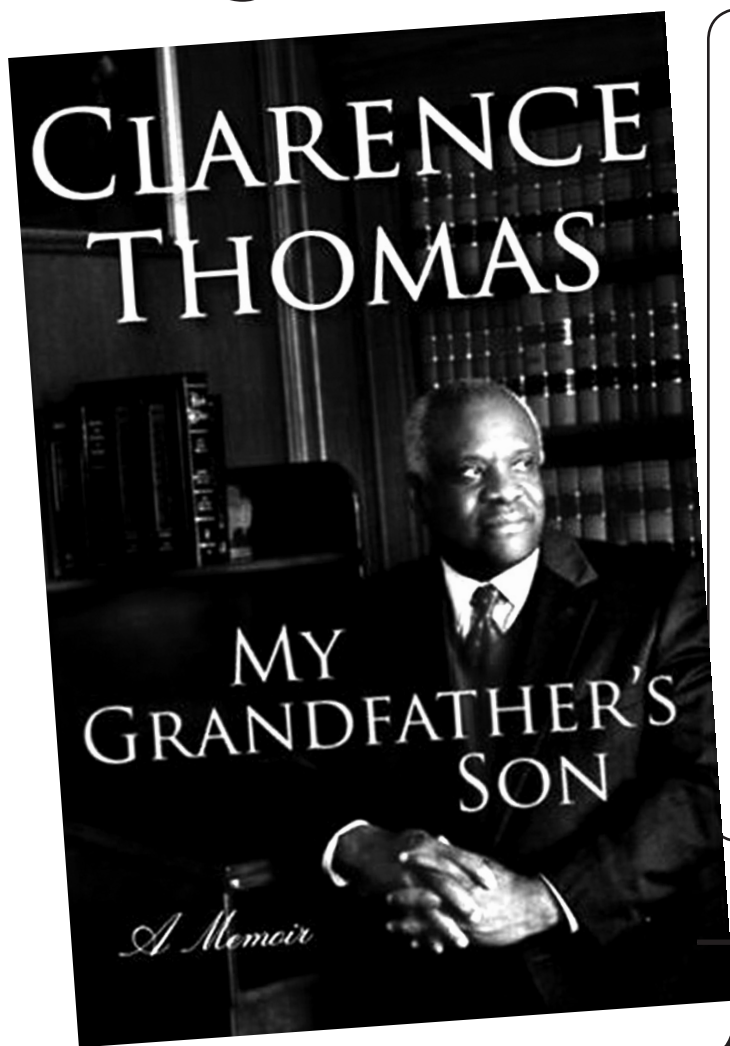
Info

Where: Long March Project, Inter Arts Center and BTAP, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: 11am-7pm, Tuesday to Sunday, until October 21
 Admission: free

Face [portait], Watanabe Go

Photos provided by Japan Foundation

My Grandfather's Son



Clarence Thomas is an American jurist and has been an associate justice on the Supreme Court bench of the US since 1991. He is the second black man to serve on the nation's highest court, and the most conservative justice on a distinctly conservative US Supreme Court.

Since he joined the Supreme Court 16 years ago, he has remained silent about many parts of his life which has added to his mystique. Many of the answers to long-standing questions have come to light in his new book, *My Grandfather's Son*.

In the book, Thomas credits his grandfather's "no excuses" philosophy with propelling him through school and providing the foundation for his views. As Thomas puts it in his preface, he is rescuing his own history from the "careless hands" and "malicious hearts" of

unnamed others.

Thomas was born in rural Georgia on June 23, 1948, into poverty and hunger. His parents divorced when Thomas was still a baby, and his father moved north to Philadelphia, leaving his young mother to raise him, his brother and sister on the US\$10 per a week she earned as a maid. At age seven, Thomas and his six-year-old brother were sent to live with his mother's father, Myers Anderson. It was a move that would forever change Thomas's life.

His grandfather, whom he called "Daddy," was a black man with a strict work ethic. Thomas witnessed his grandparents' steadfastness despite injustices, their hopefulness despite bigotry and their deep love for their country. His own quiet ambition would propel him to Holy Cross and Yale Law School, and

eventually-despite a bitter, highly-contested public confirmation-to the highest court in the land. In this candid and deeply moving memoir, a quintessential American tale of hardship and grit, Clarence Thomas recounts his astonishing journey and pays homage to the man who made it possible.

Thomas reveals pieces of his life he holds dear, details the suffering and injustices he has overcome, including the acrimonious and polarizing Senate hearing involving a former aide Anita Hill, and the depression and despair it created in his life and the lives of those closest to him.

My Grandfather's Son is the story of a determined man whose faith, courage and perseverance inspired him to rise up against all odds and achieve his dreams.

(By He Jianwei)

All for love

The Time Traveler's Wife



By He Jianwei

At first glance, Audrey Niffenegger's *The Time Traveler's Wife* (518pp, MacAdam/Cage Publishing, US\$27.5) may appear science fiction, but as it develops, it blossoms into love.

The story follows Henry DeTamble, a dashing, adventurous librarian who travels involuntarily through time because of a strange genetic disorder, and Clare Abshire, an artist whose life takes a natural sequential course.

DeTamble and Abshire's passionate love survives across a sea of time and captures the two lovers in a romantic trap, and Niffenegger's cinematic storytelling makes the novel's unconventional chronology quite vibrant.

The two have known each other since Abshire was six and DeTamble 36, and were married when she was 23 and he 31. DeTamble is the first person ever diagnosed with Chrono-Displacement Disorder (CDD), a genetic disorder which makes it possible for an older version of DeTamble to visit his "real time" wife when still a child, while his 28-year-old self has no idea who she is when he meets her for the first time in October 1991.

Although he usually travels to places he has been during his life and is often easily able to locate his "past" self or young Abshire for assistance, he is not always so lucky. Since money and clothes don't make the trip, over time he has to learn to steal what he needs.

They make the most of the time they spend together and suffer miserably when his condition forces them apart. With Abshire's urging, DeTamble seeks medical help and is eventually directed to a Dr Kendrick who diagnoses him but is unable to help. After a series of miscarriages, Abshire gives birth to a daughter named Alba who inherits her father's CDD.

Kendrick thinks he may finally be on the path to a cure, and after Henry makes a rare and frightening trip into the future, he desperately needs to believe this will happen.

Time is a mysterious nexus between the two strangers.

CNPIEC Bookstore's book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following US best sellers for *Beijing Today* readers.

True Evil

By Greg Iles, 672pp, Pocket, 80 yuan

As FBI Special Agent Alexandra Morse's sister lies dying in the hospital, she whispers that she has been attacked and that her husband is responsible. Alex's investigations lead to a handful of suspicious deaths, all tied to one divorce lawyer. By staking out his office, she identifies the killer's next victim, Dr Chris Shepard. Together, Alex and the doctor try to unravel the multi-layered scheme in motion. Dick Hill delivers a dramatic performance with voices that both menace and soothe. There is little relief from the tension and drama, and Hill's performance compels listeners through it.



Life Blood

By Penny Rudolph, 326pp, Poisoned Pen Press, 80 yuan

Rachel Chavez, a recovering alcoholic, owns and lives in an apartment on the top

floor of a parking garage in downtown Los Angeles. She leases parking space and the use of the rooftop helicopter pad to nearby businesses.

8 Choices That Create a Love That Lasts

By Jill Briscoe, 256pp, Howard Books, 150 yuan

Not everything is within our power to control, but some of the most important things are. Author Jill Briscoe shares eight concrete choices that are guaranteed to fill your life with love – the kind

of love that lasts. Based on the "love chapter" of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13, the choices shared in these pages will give you the power to love, not only God and yourself, but to infuse love into every relationship in your life.



CNPIEC Bookstore

Where: the second floor of CNPIEC, 16 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang
Open: 8:30am-6:30pm
Tel: 6500 1859, 6592 6871

(By He Jianwei)

Dump your e-mail, post a poem

By He Jianwei

How long has it been since a letter arrived in your mailbox? A package? If you receive a package with a poem and T-shirt or bag, don't hesitate to read it out loud.

A group of artists from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan are applying their creativity to life. They print their works on T-shirts, handbags and toys. Sometimes they write poems. They mail their works to customers and title them "Post a poem."

The group writes its introduction as follows: "I never thought of becoming a poet, for I can neither spell nor write well; still, I have things to tell, and I wish that you could know it. So, I thought of putting this inclination of mine into a box and posting it. And when you open this oddly-inspired box, you know that the lunatic that is me does still dwell. Forgive me if I paid too much in postage-the truth is, I am also longing to open a box and hear what you have to tell."



Anti-love 3, John Ho

A story between two men



In Bed, John Ho

The founders of "Post a poem" might be Jiang Zixuan, pen name Siuhak, and Yang Xuede, nicknamed Ted. They write poems, draw pictures and mail their works to each other.

For Siuhak, the poem is a segment generated by a phenomenon of human consciousness. He loves the packages, especially those sent by registered mail. "The postman will send the package directly. When I open the door, both I and the postman are always curious about what's inside," he said.

Ted wrote his first poem on his primary school yearbook. "I can't remember what I wrote, maybe some words asking him not to forget me. I'm sure whoever it was has forgotten me anyway," he said.

Ted once wrote poems for a

girl he loved. "Unfortunately, by the time I actually got good at it, she was married to another man and already had a child," he said.

Ted dreamed of receiving a love letter from a girl in middle school. "I dreamed that when I opened my mail box in the school, I would find a love letter. Sadly, I attended a boys' school," he said.

In 2004, Siuhak began publishing a series of comics in the weekly magazine *East Touch* with comic counterpart Ted, pioneering the artistic exchange in Hong Kong's ever-boring comic scene.

Since then, the two have exchanged poems and works by mail. "I also write to another man. When we watch movies about triads, the characters always greet each other with jargon. The words they use seem like poetry to me," Ted said.

Art is poetry

Besides Siuhak and Ted, another seven artists are participating in "Post a poem." Most are illustrators or graphic designers.

John Ho, a multi-media artist, has been working as a graphic designer and creative director for Hong Kong's local magazines *Amoeba* and *Toast*. He has created distinguished styles for each magazine.

He has studied drawing Central in Martin. His work is very personal, and displays a dreamy world of playful childishness. He is interested in writing poems and verses, and they are collected in his illustrated poetry album *Forget Travel*.

Ho draws animals and natural landscapes: the two live in a kingdom of poetry. Aside from his T-shirt works, he also dabbles in canvas. His story about the animals was created in digital prints on canvas.

Vincent Yao, another of the poets, was born in 1964. He has loved drawing and storytelling since childhood. He started his career in comic illustration when he was 17, and has been working as an artist and illustrator the last 25 years. His piece is "World Cup China in 1026," a black T-shirt with the figure of a Song Dynasty (960-1279) man kicking a football.



Let's Go Fishing, John Ho



White Panda, Siuhak

Poetry is art



The Circus, Nie Jun

Nie Jun, born in 1975 in Qingdao, studied graphic design at China Academy of Arts. "I Wrote a Poem in the Ocean Aquarium" is his piece submitted to "Post a poem." In the poem, he criticized whalers as the reason why he couldn't see any of the great mammals. "I would like to write a poem to the whales in the ocean aquarium ... My hope is to see them next summer," he said.

Writing poems takes courage. Yan Cong was born in 1983 in Zhijiang, Hubei Province, and graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts. Before he attended "Post a poem," he had never tried his hand at poetry. "I had two friends who were into composing poetry. They encouraged me to write a few short pieces," he said.



Not just a stadium

By Gan Tian

I always remember the guys in my dormitory shouting with ecstasy, "There's a football match at Worker's Stadium tonight!" I assumed that Worker's Stadium was only a place for sport. I was wrong.

The Stadium was built for the 26th World Table Tennis Championships in February 1961. As it could hold 15,000 spectators, it gradually became a popular place for ceremonies and concerts. Many superstars have lent their voices to this special stadium, from international acts Sara Brightman and The Backstreet Boys to locals like Super Girls. The area around the Stadium took advantage of neighboring Sanlitun to become another distinguished nightlife destination for businessmen, students and embassy workers.

Like Dongsishitiao and Dongzhimen in the north and

the World Trade Center in the south, the Stadium attracts those who work in high-pressure jobs. They know how to help these people relaxed. There are quiet pubs and bars, marvelous restaurants and noisy discoteques. I remember when my girlfriend and I went to the Cutie Club on our first date, even though it was a little pricey for students. I recall back then having to spend 50 yuan for a taxi to a discoteque. Bellagio was always crowded and noisy, and the music in Coco Banana was so exciting. I remember the night VICS invited pop star Stanley Huang to perform.

One day after work when heading home in a taxi, I passed Sanlitun and Worker's Stadium. Music was pounding within its walls, and shouts and screams penetrated my eardrums. On the other side of the building, the shine of neon lights made my heart dance. Though it looks a little bit gawdy, I still loved it.

Illustration by Lao Du
Continued on page 17 ...

...continued from page 16

Delicacies just start



By Gan Tian

I saw the red sign reading "China Lounge" as I entered the south gate of Worker's Stadium. Trekking down a small, winding path, I noticed I had already touched the restaurant's grounds – the exterior grasslands and even the muddy path that all belonged to this restaurant. It must be so romantic sitting here, basking in the sunshine and enjoying the greenery in the steel and iron city.

Delicacy was the first word that came to mind when I entered the premises. The three-story restaurant was full of delicate design and surprise. When I sat down, I was greeted with a menu made from ox-skin paper and written in Chinese, English and Japanese.

To my left, there stood a lovely, shimmering pool filled with big gold fish swimming and jumping. On my right, a panoramic view of the lake outside Worker's Stadium. I felt totally in touch with nature. Tina Guo, the smiling supervisor of the restaurant, took me upstairs, where I found a room listing a large variety of red wines. The biggest surprise was found on the third floor, the roof of China Lounge. I raised my head to bathe my face in the warm afternoon sun.

Feel like eating something? Try the barbecued eel at 76 yuan. It will tantalize your tastebuds and you will get the impression that they were fried and barbecued at the same time. Afterwards, the roast codfish with Korean hot sauce will tempt you to savor more of the seafood. Don't get too greedy, because you have to leave room for the exciting desserts. Pea-flour Cake or Sticky Rice Rolls with Red Bean Paste, each costing only 19 yuan, will wrap up your dining experience at China Lounge nicely. Pick one of each, and you won't be disappointed. Oh, by the way, I liked the Steamed Pumpkin Banned with Lotus Seeds, which was cooked into a steamed-bread shape. After this wonderful culinary adventure, you will say to yourself: this is definitely China!

China Lounge

Where: the south gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 11am-11pm

Average cost: 150 yuan per person

Tel: 6501 1166



Photos provided by
China Lounge

Pro bike shop cycles into city

By Gan Tian

Even though I covered the road and mountain biking events during Good Luck Beijing, I still felt like a clueless newbie when I stepped into Holy Brother. The store is teeming with professional-grade bicycle equipment.

Peter Huang, the sales manager of Beijing Holy Brother Company, said the shop provides everything for the pro rider. "If you come with two empty hands, you can leave with a well-equipped bicycle," he said.

As open an invitation as that may sound, the price may drive many visitors to leave empty handed.

A single frame costs at least 1,000 yuan. Huang said the shop is honest with its customers about what they really need. "We do not recommend that non-pro riders buy such expensive gear. If you come here, you should be a pro, or at least a hardcore biking fan. Most of our customers are retired riders and athletes," he said.

Clothing is equally very important to

gear, and Holy Brother provides sportswear from a few hundred to four thousand yuan.

"People always think, 'I have a pro bicycle, so I don't need protective gear.' This is the wrong attitude, because any pro will tell you that the gear on your body is just as important as the gear on your bike. You can't hit the road without a helmet," Huang said.

The store has a special space, decorated like a pub, where bicycle fans can sit down, have a cup of coffee and talk sporting experiences. "We want the public to be closer to the bike culture," Huang said.

"Most people talk about bicycles like they are a mode of transportation. As a sport, there is a lot more to the world of two wheels. We hope our shop can spark at least a few people's interest in the sport."

Holy Brother

Where: between Gates 13 and 14, east gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 9am-9pm

Tel: 6551 5771



Photo by Gan Tian

It's a garden party

By Gan Tian

The Pavillion is located outside the west gate of Worker's Stadium. Although it's not big, the rear garden situated here is an unforgettable spot if you've ever visited. Enjoying a bottle of wine in this setting is a wonderful experience.

Once you see the garden populated with rows of stunning birch trees, you will immediately feel like settling in for a drink. Good thing the Pavillion boasts an extensive wine list with labels from around the world: Guinness, Kilkenny, Tsing Tao and Carlsberg are on tap, and over 40 whiskeys are available.

Leeuwin Estate Prelude Cabernet Merlot is the first wine recommended from the menu. It comes from the Margaret River in Australia. At 585 yuan per bottle, you won't be disappointed. If you want to experience some French flavor, try the Chateau Chasse-Spleen, Moulis en Medoc, Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel '97, a typical Bordeaux. I admit I have no knowledge of wine.

This is the perfect place for cocktail parties, or a five-course dinner with accompanying wine. No worries if you go alone, you can enjoy The Pavillion's great food with wine and a beer in a safe outdoor setting.

The Pavillion

Where: Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 10am-midnight

Tel: 6507 2617



Photo provided by
The Pavillion

Continued on page 18...

...continued on page 17



Photos by Gan Tian

Innovated all the time

By Gan Tian

Jasmine calls its dishes "Innovative Chinese Cuisine." A bold statement, but not unfounded.

The restaurant guarantees visitors a typical Chinese environment. It has a lake – though artificial – beside it, a wooden bridge and trees cutting into the skyline. It's like a pocket of southern countryside in the midst of the capital.

The dishes names are so Chinese it's impossible to render them in English. After seeing some of their plates, it's hard to imagine how anyone thought to cook food in such ways. But despite the focus on Chinese cuisine, the restaurant provides forks and spoons instead of chopsticks.

Some patrons claim that Jasmine has the most extensive wine cellar in Beijing. They are less interested in the food than the environment and described as a Shanghai restaurant. However, Jasmine is far different from the restaurants in Shanghai. No one will ask you to quiet down if you start laughing loudly, and there's no customs to be followed in dining.

All of this makes for one relaxing dinner experience. The restaurant has also been named the "Superstars' Dining Hall," as stars such as Zhao Wei, Faye Wong and Huang Xiaoming have been caught dining there by paparazzi.

The interior uses somewhat dim lighting, and dining costs average 300 yuan.

Jasmine

Where: inside the south gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 9am-midnight

Tel: 6553 8606

From cafe roots to classy restaurant

By Gan Tian

Metro Cafe began its life in 1995 as a casual cafe, but a 12-year journey turned it into a formal dining establishment.

"In 1995, there weren't many private places for foreigners and expats in the city to go to. Metro Cafe was the most popular private cafe at that time, and we specialized in Italian food," Jin Yu, the manager of the cafe, said. Today, that cafe description is hardly fitting.

While the name "Metro" may conjure up unfortunate images of the subway or the latest "metrosexual" trends, Jin said it was intended to mean "public gathering" – a place for local lonelies to get together.

Unlike many foreign restaurants, Metro's menu is a lengthy four pages. Jin said it boasts as many as 20 kinds of pasta. The king prawn fried in olive oil with garlic, chili and ancho-

vies with a splash of vinegar can be served with Metro's own spicy tomato salsa. The lamb chops with garlic rosemary sauce or chunky tomato sauce with garlic and olive aren't to be missed either.

Like many formal Western restaurants, they have a Column A, B and C from which to choose. A Chicken breast served with Marsala mushroom sauce or balsamic lemon and butter sauce will make sure you leave with a full belly.

Jin said the food is more important than the environment at Metro. Like the city, it's a place to live, eat and meet friends, and there's always something new in store for every visitor.

Metro Cafe

Where: 9, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 11:30am-10pm

Tel: 6552 7828



Vive Paris!

By Gan Tian

La Taverne was originally called the "Far Away Cafe" some time ago, but is now known by its current French name. Christophe Rován, the cafe owner, said the new title makes it more French. This is the place to enjoy traditional French cuisine.

When I went into the cafe, the owners were discussing something and speaking in French. It was like walking into a cozy cafe in the French countryside. All the tables are covered by red-and-white-checked tablecloths. There are movie posters hanging on the white walls everywhere. The wooden tables and chairs perfectly match the wooden alcohol shelf. Under the dim amber lighting, I was transported to *Sous le Signe des Mousquetaires*, where I saw D'Artagnan, Porthos, Athos and Aramis, the three musketeers, sharing their dreams and tall tales.

The garden outside is another lovely setting where you can enjoy your meal. "Since there are many expats with children, a spe-

cial kids' menu is offered. They can enjoy books, and even play in the garden with tools," Rován said.

Rován and his friend said they wanted to make La Taverne a place for the French community. "The French Culture Center is near here, where people can read French books or watch French DVDs, but when they desire a truly French meal, they can come here," Rován said. He has certainly hit the mark with the decor and the environment, but what about the food?

Morceau Choisi Du Boucher el Son Foie Gras Poêle, or Butcher's Cut of Beef with Pan-Fried Foie Gras in English, actually describes in the name what the meal is all about. The beef goes inside your mouth. It's a little salty with a heavy flavor, but foie gras gives it a fried taste.

Fondue Bourguignonne, or Bourgogne Foundue in English, is beef fondue for two persons. Order this if you're bringing your sweetheart – you are getting not only getting a romantic French cafe, but also incredible French food.

Come to La Taverne if you haven't got enough money for a French holiday. You'll find it is never too far away, as suggested in its previous name, "The Far Away Cafe", and also you'll see how romantic French life is.

La Taverne "Far Away Cafe"

Where: 7, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 11am-11pm

Tel: 6551 8967



Continued on page 19...

...continued from page 18

East Gate of the Worker's Stadium

Jasmine

This Chinese restaurant has an extensive drink menu and a well-stocked wine cabinet.

Where: inside the south gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 9am-midnight

Tel: 6553 8606

Le Quai

The food here combines Chinese and French styles.

Where: inside the south gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 11am-2am next day

Tel: 6551 1636

Beijing Art Now Gallery

Chinese art can be seen and appreciated here by international critics.

Where: inside the south gate of

Worker's Stadium

Open: 12am-7pm

Tel: 6551 1632

Capital Garden

The garden serves up great Cantonese fare. Medicinal mushroom soup costs 58 yuan, but is delicious.

Where: inside the east gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 11am-10:30pm

Tel: 6508 5850

Holy Brother

This modern bike shop sells a variety of great bikes.

Where: between Gate 13 and 14, east gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 9am-9pm

Tel: 6551 5771

Gongti Nan Lu

Institute Cervantes

The institute organizes Spanish language classes and frequently screens Spanish movies.

Where: 1A, Gongti Nan Lu,

Open: 9am-6pm

Tel: 5879 9666

Thai In

The Thai food here will put a little fire in your stomach.

Where: 1A, Gongti Nan Lu

Open: 10am-11pm

Tel: 6552 6036

Hazara

The quality Indian food comes with a high price tag and promise of something special.

Where: inside Face Bar, 26, Dongcaoyuan, Gongti Nan Lu

Open: 12am-10:30pm

Lan Na Thai

The Thai food here is a little pricey, but tasteful. The interior is decorated with many Southeast Asian artifacts.

Where: inside Face Bar, 26, Dongcaoyuan, Gongti Nan Lu

Open: 12am-10:30pm

Tel: 6551 6788

China Lounge

After so many international flavors, this is a great stop for more traditional Chinese dishes.

Where: inside the south gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 11am-11pm

Tel: 6501 1166

Wudai Hong Kong-style Hot Pot

This two-story Hong Kong-style restaurant

serves every customer with a small but excellent beef hot pot.

Where: inside the south gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 10:30am-11pm

Tel: 6500 5318

Li Kang

The roasted duck here is full of home-style goodness. The interior was decorated by Li Kang.

Where: opposite to the Gongti Swimming Pool, Gongti Nan Lu

Open: 11am-11pm

Tel: 6552 3818

Pipes

Local musicians are frequently invited to play pop in this fashionable place.

Where: inside the south gate of Worker's Stadium, Gongti Nan Lu

Tel: 6593 7756

North Gate of the Worker's Stadium

Outback Steakhouse

The place to go for Australian steaks. Their signature appetizer is a massive onion thrown in a deep fryer.

Open: 11am-11pm

Where: inside the north gate of Worker's Stadium

Tel: 6506 5166

Vics

Its R&B, pop, soul, reggae and hip hop selections make it one of the best dance clubs in town.

Where: inside the north gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 8:30pm-midnight

Tel: 6593 6215

Mix

Like its name suggests, this club mixes the best of everything: music,

alcohol and a dance floor.

Where: inside the north gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 8pm-midnight

Tel: 6530 2889

Kindy R00

The facilities here are clean and bright. The Instructor speaks English and offers free trial classes.

Where: Gongti Wenyuan, inside Worker's Stadium

Open: 8:30am-6pm

Tel: 6553 6362

Tasty-Taste

Cakes and coffee here are tailored to individual tastes.

Where: north gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 9am-midnight

Tel: 6551 1506

Gongti Xi Lu

The Pavilion

Serves up a special place for drinks with its glass-walled wine room.

Where: Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 10am-midnight

Tel: 6507 2617

Babyface

Babyface is a national clubbing brand that offers the best music and drinks.

Where: No 6, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 8pm-4am next day

Tel: 6551 3338

Cargo Club

There are internationally renowned DJs gracing this club.

Where: 6, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 8pm-midnight

Tel: 6551 6898

Cutie Club

Dazzling lights and pounding beats bring out the hip hop flavor of this club.

Where: 8, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 9pm-midnight

Tel: 6552 9988

Shinyeh

This Taiwanese restaurant provides a tremendous night feast.

Where: 6, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 11am-2pm

Tel: 6552 5066

Angel Club

Angel offers more seats, more lights, more workers and more space than its neighbors.

Where: 6, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 8:30pm-2pm

Tel: 6552 8888

Queen Club

A great place to enjoy people watching and music.

Where: 6, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 8pm-midnight

Tel: 6553 3555

Bellagio

Don't pass up the ice desserts when you go to Bellagio.

Where: 6, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 11am-5am

Tel: 6511 3533

Green T House

Like the name suggests, Green T promotes healthy drinks and a healthy lifestyle.

Where: 6, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 11:30-midnight

Tel: 6552 8310

Coco Banana

The lounge area and square bar are great spots to meet hot ladies.

Where: 8 Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 9pm-5am

Tel: 8599 9999

Three Guizhou Men

The Guizhou food here will leave you wanting more.

Where: inside the west gate of Worker's Stadium

Open: 11am-11pm

Tel: 6551 8517

Hot Loft

This buffet-style restaurant serves many Chinese favorites.

Where: 4, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 11am-midnight

Tel: 6501 7501

Babi Club

The orange-lit bar with pink, purple and green laser lights has a dreamy dance floor.

Where: 8, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 8:30pm-2am

Tel: 6551 3338

Pizza Buona

Order some of the best pies with traditional toppings. Delivery is available.

Where: 7, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 10:30am-midnight

Tel: 6551 3518

Destination

They city's best gay bar, hands down.

Where: 7, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 6pm-midnight

Tel: 6551 5138

La Taverne

The lunch buffet offers an endless stream of dining delights.

Where: 7, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 11am-11pm

Tel: 6551 8967

Mallika

The restaurant has typical Indian food and music, as well as other regional favorites.

Where: 8, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 10am-midnight

Tel: 6551 0088

Metro Cafe

Though called a cafe, Metro is more like a cozy, romantic Italian restaurant.

Where: 9, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 11:30am-10pm

Tel: 6552 7828

French Cultural Center

The center offers French language classes and a collection of French books, DVDs, CDs and other materials.

Where: Guangcai International Mansion, 18, Gongti Xi Lu

Open: 9am-6pm

Tel: 6553 5466

(By Gan Tian)



Mitaka station of Keio Line

Tour the arts in trendy Tokyo

Know your destination and use the subway

One danger of traveling is packing everything you need except a plan. To make any journey a success, you have to do some homework before setting out.

First, make a list of everything you want to see, and then sort them according to priority and proximity. My must-visit locations for this trip included the newly-formed Roppongi art triangle and every Hayao Miyazaki fan's dream: the Ghibli Museum. I also wanted to take a walk in Omotesando in the afternoon. Just a tip, but most shops in Tokyo don't open till 10 or 11pm and close as early as 8pm.

In Beijing, taking taxi is one of the most convenient ways to get around town. If you try that in Tokyo, you can empty your bank account by the end of the day. Fares begin at 660 yen (45 yuan or US\$6.6) higher after 11pm and grow by the second. When I asked about taking a taxi from Shinagawa to Narita Airport at midnight, both my friend and guide immediately asked if I was crazy.

Apart from staggering prices, Tokyo's traffic jams are another reason to avoid taxis. During the weekend, it's no better than Beijing. During the Japanese holiday in early May, it took an entire hour to cross Rainbow Bridge in my rental car.

Using subway lines is much more reasonable. Tokyo's subways will get you anywhere in the city – fast. The down side is, the lines are so intertwined, it can be hard to figure out which to select.

Months before my first journey, I bought a book on Tokyo subway lines and read it. The book introduces the main lines, lists attractions around them and teaches how to use the ticket-selling machine.

That homework helped a lot.

The book was in Chinese, so try to find one in your own language. If you can't track down a book, then turn to the Internet. Make sure you know how to say the destination's name, which subway lines you should take, the station to get off at and the exit to take. Print out everything and take it with you, even though Tokyo is a city with very clear signs. Above all, know your destination.

Related reading:

Tokyo Subway, by Wang Changyi, Chinese language, China Travel&Tourism Press
Design Tokyo, by Wu Donglong, Chinese language, Shandong People's Publishing House

Wallpaper City Guide(Tokyo), edited by Wallpaper magazine, Phaidon Press
Moleskine City Notebook (Tokyo), to be published March 2008

By Yu Shanshan

Tokyo is the perfect place to take a break. It's the home of endless innovation, convenient housing abounds and the city has excellent transportation and clean air at least when you compare it to Beijing. The only frustration is that there is too much to take in during a single visit.

I try to subdue my desire to wander and plan every Tokyo holiday practically, each time with a theme. My one-day-journey in May was a shopping swirl, so this September, I went for a taste of art.



Entrance to Meiji Shrine



Omotesando Hills



Book1st, a book store chain in Shibuya



Harajuku kids

Photos by Yu Shanshan

First day: Meiji Shrine→ Harajuku→ Omotesando→ Aoyama→ Shibuya

I landed in Osaka, Japan, and after a one-day stay, I took the Shinkansen network from Osaka to Tokyo. Take Nozomi, the fastest train, which can make the trip in two and a half hours. Get off at Shinagawa Station, the second to last stop of the Shinkansen.

The Toyoko Inn was the hotel I booked, and is five minutes from the Shinagawa station on the JR Yamanote line, one of the biggest intersection stations of Tokyo and just a few stops from Shinjuku, Shibuya and Harajuku. Many trendy places are located near the Yamanote line circle, so staying near one of its stations is a good idea. Just remember, book your hotel as early as possible to make sure you have a room. Japan is a country where people book everything far in advance.

After having lunch with my friend who helped me with my booking, I set out to Harajuku on Yamanote line.

Avoid walking around such hot area on the weekend. Even having grown up in a country with 1.3 billion people, I was still terrified by how many people were roaming around outside Harajuku Station. The next day, Monday, I passed through Shibuya in the morning, and by then the ocean of people had decreased.

Aside from weekends, avoid visits to Tokyo that coincide with national holidays. Japanese don't like to stay home during the holiday, and people from all over the country visit Tokyo for a break. Check dates while planning your journey.

My first stop was **Meiji Shrine**, a shrine to the Emperor Meiji. The weather was hot, and I thought such a sacred place might help relieve travel tension. Squeezing through a group of oddly-dressed *harajuku* kids, I entered a new world of peace and greenery. A new couple was accepting people's best wishes at the palace gate. After making my wishes and staying in the temple for about an hour, I left Meiji Shrine.

Across the street, I was standing at the entrance of Omotesando.

Omotesando is a long street lined with top international domestic brands. If you have a passion for shopping, this place can satisfy your every need. I continued and turned right into **Aoyama** area, site of one of the famous MUJI shops. I bought a few things, and as I continued down the street, I found myself in Shibuya.

Shibuya is a place for young people. From bookstores to theaters, cafes to shops, you can feel the pulse of the city. I bought an envelope from LOFT and found some half-off books on the top floor of HMV, a record shop, then gathered a few theater magazines in Book1st before a short visit to Bunkamura, a cultural complex with an embedded theater.

Autumn is the season for design events, and the most famous are listed below. Don't forget to have a look at the latest Japanese innovations.

Design Tide

October 31-November 4
 designtide.jp/07/en/

Tokyo Designer's Week

October 31-November 4
 c-channel.com

Continued on page 21 ...

...Continued
from page 20



The drink and snack car in the Midtown Garden are Satoh's design and operate from 8:30am-6pm every day.

Photos by Yu Shanshan



A lonely robot stands on the roof of Ghibli Museum.



Sky Aquarium: a view of the undersea world of tropical fish, aquatic plants, coral and rocks, atop Mori Tower.

Second day: Ghibli Museum→ Inokashira Park→ Roppongi art triangle

Morning

Ghibli Museum, run

by animation producer Hayao Miyazaki's studio is the Mecca of Ghibli fans. It is secluded in the peaceful greenery of Mitaka, just 20 minutes on the JR Chuo Line from Shinjuku Station.

I arrived at Mitaka station on Monday morning and went out the south exit. The road to the museum was on the left, and is easy to spot from its greenery. The walk to the gate is only 15 minutes, but most people opt for a trip on the Ghibli bus. Buy a one-way ticket for 200 yen instead of the round trip, because you should visit Inokashira Park, the location of the studio.

Ghibli Museum is small, and unless you want to eat lunch at its Straw Hat Cafe, leave and head for the park. The park has a much more beautiful cafe beside its central lake.

Inokashira Park, opened in 1918, is famous as a filming location for many Japanese love dramas. You can see Inokashira Pond with its signature spring, and tall cherry trees, cypresses, red pines and azaleas.

The Park contains a small temple dedicated to Benzaiten, a vengeful goddess of love. Benzaiten is said to have cast a spell on courting couples, bringing love affairs to an untimely finish. This spell is rumored to strongly affect any couple who dares to venture onto the pond.

The park draws many vendors, musicians, artists and street performers. On weekends and holidays, it is bustling with crowds who arrive to take in the lively environment. This is especially the case during the cherry blossom season when the entire park is overrun with visitors there for hanami.

Related information:

Ghibli Museum

Website: ghibli-museum.jp

Ghibli Museum required all ticket purchases to be made in advance. Each ticket has a reserved date and time. For overseas purchase, you can visit ghibli-museum.jp/ticket/overseas.html.

Inokashira Park

Nearest Stations: 5 minutes from Kichijoji via the JR Chuo line, 1 minute from Inokashira Koen via the Keio Inokashira line, on which you can return to Shibuya.

Admission: free
Open: 9:30am-5pm

Afternoon jaunt

The Roppongi Art Triangle was formed this spring, with The National Art Center, Suntory Museum of Art (Tokyo Midtown) and the Mori Art Center as its three angles.

Take the Toei-Oedo Line from Shinjuku to Roppongi station and disembark under **Tokyo Midtown**. The signs in the underground passageway are very clear, and can lead you to any site in Midtown.

Tokyo Midtown derives its name from the Midtown district of New York, and was developed on the site of the Defense Agency head office. The goal of relocation was to create a composite, urban district with a combination of offices, residences, art and commercial facilities, surrounded by greenery.

Suntory Museum is on the Midtown's third floor. Founded in 1961, the museum moved on March 30. The architect Kengo Kuma views it as the city's living room, a place for people to enjoy themselves and take it slow.

I wandered around the **National Art Center**, not far from Midtown for the afternoon. The architecture was designed by Kurokawa Kisho.

The entrance lobby has a high ceiling and an undulated glass facade, which from a distance looks like a vertically waving sea. The energy-saving design cuts out solar heat and ultraviolet rays. People come to enjoy not only works of art, but also the restaurant, cafes and the underground museum shop.

The museum has different exhi-



The National Art Center

bitions on each of its three floors, each set at different prices. I recommend *Anzai: Personal Photo Archives 1970-2006* (ends October 22). I spent a lot of time sitting under the blow-up prints of his work.

Afternoon coffee came from a small snack cart on the lawn beside **21_21 Design Sight** in the Midtown Garden.

The gray, bird-like building of 21_21 Design Sight, founded together with Midtown, was designed by Tadao Ando. It is a low-rise structure consisting of one ground floor and one underground floor. The idea for its construction was born in the minds of three famous designers, Issey Miyake, Taku Satoh and Naoto Fukasawa.

Besides various programs, 21_21

Third Day: Watch drama (about how to get a ticket)

My journey ended on a dramatic note, with a performance of *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by Gregory Doran from the Royal Shakespeare Company and performed by famous local actors. The show was to celebrate the second anniversary of Galaxy Theatre's relocation.

It makes me jealous that Tokyo people can see so many stage performances every month. The only worry is tickets. In Japan, people are used to booking things in advance. To see a popular stage performance, you need to reserve a seat six months in advance. For really hot shows, having

money is not enough: you need luck. There may be one or two ticket drawings to see who can make it into the audience based on theater membership, actor fan clubs or ticketing websites. It's hard to imagine such a system in China.

There are at least four channels to book tickets: through the theater itself, ticketing websites (t.pia.co.jp or eplus.jp/sys/main.jsp), the actors' or organizing company's official websites and some bidding sites like tw.bid.yahoo.com or eBay.

Japanese websites usually require you to register an address in Japan

Design Sight will stage two major exhibitions every year. Each will tackle a single theme and be organized by a single director. It just started its second major exhibition created by Taku Satoh, with a theme of "water" (until January 14, 2008).

When night fell, I headed for **Mori tower**, the view of the city at dusk from its observation deck was even more breathtaking than during the day.

It's hard to get lost on the way to the building because its large "Mori" logo is an obvious feature of the night skyline. It costs about 1,800 yen to get up and see a night view of the city, visit Mori Art Center and the Sky Aquarium exhibition also on the observation deck.

The night's final destination was Le Corbusier's retrospective show in Mori Art Center. It's next show, Roppongi Crossing 2007: Future Beats in Japanese Contemporary Art, begins tomorrow and ends January 14, 2008.

Related English websites:

The National Art Center
nact.jp

Midtown
tokyo-midtown.com/en/
Suntory Museum of Art
suntory.com/culture-sports/sma/
21_21 Design Sight
2121designsight.jp/index-e.html

Mori Art Center
mori.art.museum/eng/
Tokyo City View (of Mori tower)
roppongihills.com/tcv/jp/

to become an official member. It is a good idea to have a few friends in the land of the rising sun to help you out (you only need to provide your Visa card number and expiry date).

After the members' drawing ends, remaining seats go to public ticketing outlets. Any tickets that make it that far are usually for poor seats but even poor seats are so hot that it takes two phone lines hammering away to get a call through to the ticketer.

If all else fails, try auction websites or prepare to stand in the world's longest line.



Movie of the Week

Get yourself something worth dying for

By Jiang Xubo

People die every day, as Morgan Freeman said in the movie. "People die while mopping floors, washing dishes," he said. A greater tragedy though it is, most people die with this as their last thought: "I never got my shot."

Yet, former waitress, Maggie, did get her shot, though it ultimately took her life. But what quality has life if one never gets to do what he or she really feels good doing?

Find yourself something that's worth dying for, and you will surely get that shot – the shot to go to your grave feeling fulfilled, just like Maggie Fitzgerald did.

Synopsis: In the wake of a painful estrangement from his daughter, boxing trainer Frankie Dunn has been unwilling to let himself get close to anyone for a very long time – until Maggie Fitzgerald walked into his gym. Suffering a life of constant struggle, Fitzgerald has gotten herself this far on raw talent, unshakable focus and tremendous will. But more than anything, she wants someone to believe in her. The last thing Dunn needs is that kind of responsibility – let alone that kind of risk – but he is won over by her sheer determination, and he begrudgingly agrees to take her on.



Scene 1: In Dunn's gym, Maggie confides exercising after the other fighters have left.

Frankie Dunn: You're not breathing right, that's why you're panting ⁽¹⁾. So it's your birthday huh, how old does that make ya?

Maggie Fitzgerald: I'm 32, Mr Dunn, and I'm here celebrating the fact that I've spent another year scraping dishes and waitressing, which is what I've been doing since I was 13. And according to you, I'll be 37 before I can even throw a decent punch if I don't work on this speed bag ⁽²⁾. That's God's simple truth.

The other truth is, my brother's in prison. My sister cheats on welfare by pretending one of her babies is still alive. My Daddy's dead. And my momma weighs 312 pounds. If I was thinking straight ⁽³⁾, I'd go back home. Find a used trailer. Buy a deep fryer and eat Oreos all day.

Problem is, this is the only thing I ever felt good doing. If I'm too old for this, then I got nothing. Is that enough truth for you?

Frankie Dunn: Is this your speed bag?

Maggie Fitzgerald: And where is yours? Behind the counter?

Frankie Dunn: Hold it, hold it, I'll show you a few things, and then we'll get you a trainer.

Maggie Fitzgerald: No, sorry.

Frankie Dunn: You're in a position to negotiate ⁽⁴⁾?

Maggie Fitzgerald: Yes Sir, because I know, if you train me right, I'm gonna be a champ. I've

seen you looking at me.

Frankie Dunn: Yeah, out of pity.

Maggie Fitzgerald: Don't you say that, don't you say that if it



ain't true. I want a trainer, I don't want charity, and I don't want favors. If you are not interested then I got more celebrating to do.

Frankie Dunn: Stop! Stop! Stop! God damn it! Stop. What the hell are you doing? OK, if I'm gonna take you on ⁽⁵⁾ ...

Maggie Fitzgerald: You won't never regret it.

Frankie Dunn: Look, just listen to me ... If I take you on ...

Maggie Fitzgerald: I promise I'll work so hard.

Frankie Dunn: God, this is a mistake already.

Maggie Fitzgerald: Mmm ... I'm listening, boss.

Frankie Dunn: If I take you on, you don't say anything, you don't question me, don't ask why, you don't say "nigger" something. And I'm gonna try to forget the fact that you're a girl.

Maggie Fitzgerald: That's all I want.

Frankie Dunn: And don't



come crying to me if you get hurt. Alright?

Maggie Fitzgerald: We got a deal.

Frankie Dunn: No, not quite. I'm gonna teach ya how to fight. Then we get you a manager and I'm off down the road ⁽⁶⁾.

Scene 2: In a stadium, Maggie gets her first six-round match.

Frankie Dunn: Damn! Damn! Damn! Your nose is broke.

Maggie Fitzgerald: Dang, fix it.

Frankie Dunn: I can't. I can't.

Maggie Fitzgerald: You can fix it.

Frankie Dunn: I can't. I've gotta call it.

Maggie Fitzgerald: I've seen what you can do, fix it.

Frankie Dunn: Look, I can snap it back into place ⁽⁷⁾ but I can't stop the bleeding, the ring ⁽⁸⁾ doctor's gonna call it.

Maggie Fitzgerald: Please, Frankie, please stop the blood. I can beat her.

Frankie Dunn: All right. Do this. Inhale, inhale, breath in. Yeah, it's OK. All right. You got 20 seconds before this turns into a geyser ⁽⁹⁾ and it's gonna spray

all over the front row. Twenty seconds, that's all you got, now get going.

Scene 3: In the ward, Maggie asks Frankie to help her end her life after she loses her leg, just like what her father did to Axl, the family's dog.

Frankie Dunn: Need anything?

Maggie Fitzgerald: Need to know what MoCushle means.

Frankie Dunn: Well, you didn't win. I don't have to tell ya.

Maggie Fitzgerald: You are the meanest man I've ever met, no wonder no one loves you. You remind me of my Daddy.

Frankie Dunn: Well, he must have been a very intelligent, handsome man.

Maggie Fitzgerald: You ain't gonna make me tap no more than

eight, are ya?

Frankie Dunn: No, I was looking at this catalog from city college. I thought I'd get ya a wheelchair. Maybe the kind that operates by moving through a straw. Thought maybe you'd like to go back to school.

Maggie Fitzgerald: Got a favor to ask you, boss.

Frankie Dunn: Sure, anything you want.

Maggie Fitzgerald: Well, I want what my Daddy did for Axl.

Frankie Dunn: Don't even think about that.

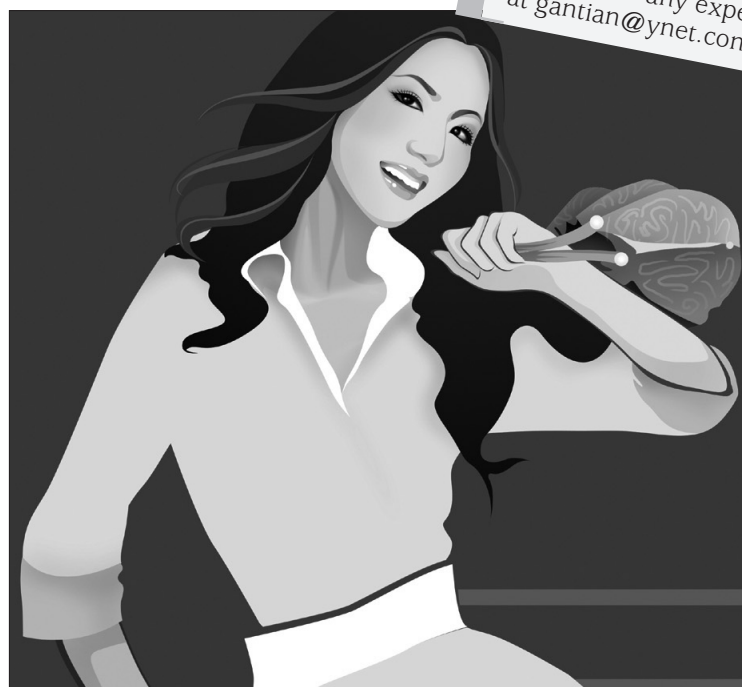
Maggie Fitzgerald: I can't be like this, Frankie, not after what I've done. I've seen the world. People chanted ⁽¹⁰⁾ my name. Hell, not my name, some damn name you gave me. They were chanting for me. I was in magazines. You think I'd ever dream that would happen?

Vocabulary

- 1. Pant:** to breathe quickly and loudly through your mouth, usually because you have been doing something very energetic.
- 2. Speed bag:** a small, leather bag boxers use for punching practice.
- 3. To think straight:** to figure it out clearly.
- 4. Negotiate:** to have formal discussions with someone in order to reach an agreement with them.
- 5. To take on:** to accept a particular job or responsibility.
- 6. To be off down the road:** to quit a particular job or responsibility and leave.
- 7. To snap something into place:** in this particular case, it means to reset the broken nose.
- 8. Ring:** an enclosed space where people perform or compete, here it refers to a boxing ring.
- 9. Geyser:** a hole in the ground from which hot water and steam shoot out.
- 10. Chant:** to repeat or sing a word or phrase continuously, or to sing a religious prayer or song to a simple tune.

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.



CFP Photo

Compliments can complement your life

By Jackie Zhang

When I was a teenager, my life was buried in homework and examinations. I rarely had a free weekend to do anything I liked. But girls like shopping and chatting, even if they have a busy lifestyle or are in a bad mood. Often, I took a break from my busy study schedule and went out with friends.

Jenny was one of the foreign students studying in my middle school and came to my class when I was a senior in high school. She liked to visit different places in Beijing and especially loved to go shopping.

It was a Saturday in fall when Jenny and I traveled to Wangfujing. In the afternoon, both of us were exhausted and stopped at McDonalds for a rest. We talked about where we could buy clothes that were cheap and beautiful.

"Actually it is difficult to find the clothes that you like and fit you," Jenny said. "My sister and I are used to buying things

online. Sometimes, we find some very nice articles there."

She said that on one occasion, both of them did a little online shopping. "I bought a blue skirt, and my friend, a gray sweater. We also chose two small brooches to give as presents," Jenny said. "But it seemed that my friend had regrets about buying the sweater. She remarked how nice my skirt was, and I returned the compliment and said I liked her sweater. I didn't want her to feel bad about her choice."

"So you gave her one of the gift brooches to comfort her?" I asked. I was confused about the word compliment. "Did you think the brooch would complement her sweater?"

Jenny looked at me confusingly. I guessed she had not understood my meaning. "No," she said. "I just wanted to make her feel better," Jenny explained. I was embarrassed at the time. I knew I had misunderstood her, but I really did not know where I had gone

wrong. "You said you returned the compliment," I said.

"Yes, I did," she said. Jenny had finally unraveled my confusion. "I meant compliment, but not the word you thought," she said with a smile. "The compliment I used is spelled, c-o-m-p-l-i-m-e-n-t. It's an expression of praise, admiration, or respect. But the other form of the word spelled, c-o-m-p-l-e-m-e-n-t, means to improve something by adding something to it. For example, adding the new brooch to the gray sweater may have indeed improved the overall appearance of my friend's outfit," she said.

Compliment and complement have the same pronunciation, but have different meanings that are in no way related. The lesson I learned was that I should pay more attention to the whole sentence and not get stuck on one word. A well-placed compliment can certainly complement a person's attitude about life.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor Shida Zhu

1. Criteria is

Criteria, of Latin derivation, is the plural form of "criterion" or, if you will, "criteria." So, obviously it should be: "the criteria are." Similarly, media is the plural form of "medium." You have to be careful with the flexible, little verb, "to be."

2. To lead the practice of market rules

It is quite tricky to use the phrase "to lead." Sometimes it has to be followed by "in" and sometimes not. In the above sentence, you must use "in" after the verb "lead." It should be, "to lead in the practice of market rules." However, it's quite acceptable to say, "Liu Xiang, the flying man of China, led the field of 110m Men's Hurdles in the last 20 meters."

3. Provide people to have more opportunities

The idiomatic expression is "to provide someone with something." To make the sentence simpler, more terse and idiomatic, simply drop "to have" and add "with" to have the sentence read as follows: "Provide people with more opportunities."

Native speaker Joe Edwards

1. Criteria is

The word "criteria" springs from the loins of Latin as many English words do. In this example, you are seeing the plural form of the word, "criterion." So, following criteria with the verb "is" would not sit well the Romans of yesterday or today. You must say, "Criteria are." Dealing with the verb "to be" can be tricky. To be or not to be. In the above example, it is not to be.

2. To lead the practice of market rules

Using the phrase "to lead" can be challenging. You can easily be led down the wrong grammatical path. To correct the above example, insert the word "in" after the verb and say, "To lead in the practice

of market rules." If you insist on using the above sentence structure, the following sentence will accommodate you properly: "The singing coach decided to lead the students in song." Again, practice will teach you when to leave your in in, or take your in out.

3. Provide people to have more opportunities

The correct form of this expression is "to provide somebody with something." The words, "to have," added in the above example become grammatical flies in the ointment. It doesn't fly. Simple solution: drop the words "to have," add "with," stir briskly and you have, "Provide people with more opportunities." Thank you for providing us with this opportunity to teach you proper English.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Photo by Derrick Sobodash

Argue between the sharps

By Xan Moody Stuart

Dear Gan Tian

I think, given his fever at the time, Mr Sobodash can be forgiven his lapse, but as the purpose of the Chinglish column is to educate, I think that we need a correction on "contaminated sharps." It is certainly a neologism, but it is in common usage in hospitals in the UK and apparently in the US as well. I have certainly seen the same words used in the same context in hospitals in London. A Google search yields 54,000 references.

In answer to Mr Sobodash's question "What else could be sharp besides a needle?", the website of the University of Pennsylvania helpfully elaborates: "Contaminated sharps (needles, syringes, slides, broken glass etc)."

Regards

Xan

By Derrick Sobodash

This week, it's my turn to be educated.

To all readers, I must confess, I never watched an episode of *ER*, and despite multiple trips to the ER, I never noticed one of these signs. However, Xan did his research and is most certainly correct. This use of "sharp" as a noun is very common in the medical community.

For an outsider, it seemed strange. The only noun form of "sharp" this writer could think of was a sharp in music, specifically a note or sign. Merriam-Webster comes through with more meanings, including a sewing needle or a self-proclaimed expert or "sharper," which sounds like a 1920s was to say "journalist."

Its best match is "a sharp edge or point" – exactly how this sign uses it. Still, it seems awkward since no one would use "sharp" this way in conversation. "There's a sharp in my eye!" "Dad's toolbox fell over and there are sharps all over the floor!" Doesn't sound right, does it?

This writer stands by his suggestion to alter the sign. Since Xan explained that the box also contains broken glass, "sharp objects" works nicely.

Hospital workers know what goes in these boxes, so the label is there to advise the rest of us.



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Friday, October 12

Exhibition

Tube – Sun Yi's Works



Where: Tangsheng Art Salon, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6:30pm, until October 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9498

Look At It This Way

Where: Red T Space, Dashanzi Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu (around the corner from South Gate Space)

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until December 2

Admission: 100 yuan

Tel: 8911 5762

Song Haizeng Solo Exhibition

Where: Art Scene Beijing, 798 Dashanzi, 2 Jiu Xianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until October 23

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 6962



Outdoor

2 Days Qingdao Tour

Take weekend trip to famous seaport city Qingdao to enjoy the beach, old concession villas and streets, the Qingdao Beer Brewery (Factory) and many other interesting sites; enjoy seafood, the beach, and then head to the suburbs and climb famous Mount Laoshan to see Taoist temples, high ridges and deep gullies.

When: Take the night train to Qingdao on October 12 and fly back to Beijing on October 14.

Cost: 2,800 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (Chinese Culture Club)

Saturday, October 13

Exhibition

Fuzzy Disturbance – Lin Weixiang Solo Exhibition



Where: 3+3 Art Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-7pm, until October 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6437 9942

Feeding – Dalong Solo Exhibition



Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Daily 8am-mid-

night, until October 31

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6959 8343

Tracy Heneberger: Sculptures

Where: Pickled Art Center, Feijiacun, Laiguan-gyong Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, until November 2

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 7590

Movie

Persepolis

Marjane Satrapi grew up wearing sneakers and beating up boys. Her life goal was to become a saint. But when she was ten years old, her world changed overnight. Girls and boys had to use different doors to enter the school. She had to cover herself with a long dark robe. Adults around her began to disappear. Marjane had several close encounters with the country's morality police and her teachers at school. Iraqi bombs fell on the street where she lived. Eventually her parents send her abroad to receive a European education, but she is miserable.

Where: French Culture Centre, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm

Admission: 20 yuan

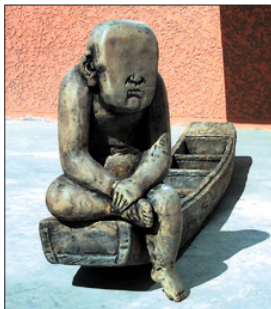
Tel: 6553 2627



Sunday, October 14

Exhibition

Philosophical Ponderings – Wu Zuguang's Modern Sculptural Works



Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Hua Wei Li 1-1E, Chaoyang

When: Daily 9:30am-7pm, until October 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 87790461, 87790458

Sewn – Group Exhibition by Chinese and Chilean Artists

Where: Shang Elements Art Museum, Yihaodi International Artbase, Hegezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9am-5pm, until October 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6405 1082

Lee Don Gi Solo Exhibition



Where: Gallery Mook, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until November 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 5134 4969

Outdoor

Datong Trip

Buddhist cave art began here in Datong, 160 miles west of Beijing, in the fifth century, by the Xianbei minority, which ruled Northern China for over 200 years. Located about 80 kilometers southeast of Datong, the wooden Hanging Monastery was built about 1,400 years ago on the extremely sheer cliffs of Hengshan Mountain.

When: Take the night train to Datong on October 12 and return to Beijing by train on October 14.

Cost: 1,600 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Stage in November

Concert

Andy Lau 2007

Vocal Concert

Who: Andy Lau

Where: Fengtai Sports Center, Fengti Beilu, Fengtai

When: 7:30pm,

November 2

Admission: 280-2,680 yuan

Violinist Gidon Kremer Beijing Concert

Who: Gidon Kremer

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Shongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,

November 9

Admission: 120-880 yuan

Solo Concert

by Boris Berman

Who: Boris Berman

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,

November 18

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

Who: Chung Myung-whun and Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,

November 20-21

Admission: 50-380 yuan

Dance

China Performance Tour

by Paul Taylor

Contemporary

Dance Company

Who: Paul Taylor Contemporary Dance Company

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,

November 16-18

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Drama

The Taming of the Shrew

Who: TNT Theater Britain

Where: PKU Centennial Memorial Hall, 116 Zhongguancun Bei Dajie, Haidian

When: 7pm,

November 2-3

Admission: 60-200 yuan

Mid-summer

Night's Dream

Who: Directed by

Liang Bolong

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,

November 2-11

Admission: 80-880 yuan

42nd Street

– Broadway Musical



Who: Broadway

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

November 13-18

Admission: 80-880 yuan

(By Li Jing)